

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING FARMEDHERE ON THEIR GRAND OPENING

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize FarmedHere, a revolutionary vertical farming facility in Bedford Park, IL, that celebrates its Grand Opening this week.

Envisioned as an sustainable solution to growing fresh produce in an urban environment, Steve Dennenberg, Paul Hardej, Paul Suder, Jolanta Hardej, and Mark Weglarz came together to found and operate FarmedHere. Designed to bring food closer to the consumer, FarmedHere is located in a formerly unoccupied warehouse in Bedford Park. The facility uses cutting-edge technological advances in aquaponics, aeroponics, and vertical farming to make urban agricultural production a possibility. While many types of produce travel thousands of miles to reach the plates of Chicagoland residents, FarmedHere products save money and energy by keeping the growing and distribution processes local in the Chicagoland area.

Beyond being economically efficient and ecologically-minded, FarmedHere also gives back to the local community. FarmedHere has partnered with the Chicago Botanic Garden to teach students about aquaponics and the future of urban farming. This partnership teaches students how to be leaders in this exciting new industry that will create jobs now and in the future.

Residents of the Greater Chicago Area now have access to fresh local basil, arugula, and salad dressing produced sustainably by their own neighbors thanks to FarmedHere. Eventually, this business will grow and begin selling fresh fish and more energy-intensive fruits and vegetables. The founders of FarmedHere also hope to someday move entirely "off the grid" by using cutting edge technologies to produce their own energy, fertilizer, and output—all under one roof.

FarmedHere and vertical farms like it are good for the economy and the environment, and I am proud that this one-of-a-kind facility is located in the 3rd District of Illinois. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the entire FarmedHere family on their successful launch and to wish many years of continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. HORACE PERRY JONES

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Dr. Horace Perry Jones, a legendary figure in the history

of the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM). Dr. Jones taught history at ULM for nearly five decades, from 1965 until his retirement in May of last year. During that span, he touched the lives of tens of thousands of students, each of whom walked away from his class with much more than just lessons in history. Dr. Jones passed away on Tuesday, March 19, 2013, at the age of 83.

Dr. Jones's passion for life was evident to all who encountered him and who knew his remarkable story. A native of North Carolina, Dr. Jones served in the U.S. Marine Corps and fought in the Korean War under the revered general, Lewis "Chesty" Puller. His adventures did not end after leaving the Marines, and he carried his "Semper Paratus" spirit with him for the rest of his life. In addition to vigorously pursuing his extensive education in history, Dr. Jones hitchhiked across the globe, traveling through Europe, the Middle East, Southwest Asia, India, the Far East, and through the Panama Canal. He taught at the American School in London before eventually returning to the U.S. After earning his Ph.D. from the University of Mississippi, in 1965 he accepted a position with Northeast Louisiana State College—today known as the University of Louisiana at Monroe, a school Dr. Jones came to love as much as it loved him.

For the next 47 years he dazzled his students and community with a magical combination of history, humor, and unreserved passion for life. Outside the classroom, Dr. Jones was a local icon. He could easily be spotted driving his antique yellow Volkswagen on campus and across town. It was not an unusual sight to see Dr. Jones standing under a campus tree's canopy, beneath his mounted boar's head, reciting his poetry to a crowd of mesmerized students. On days of home football games, he was often spotted wandering the Grove among tailgaters, carrying a large can labeled with unmentionable motivational language. Even the Stubbs Hall office he occupied was celebrated—cramped with bizarre artifacts, classroom props, and hundreds of books he had read cover to cover.

But for all he was recognized for outside the classroom, most will remember Dr. Jones for his role inside the classroom. There he brought history to life, and brought life into perspective. He was well known to have a few students carry him into class in a coffin, only for him to suddenly jump out and surprise his perplexed audience. It was not unusual for him to show up to class wearing a weathered graduation cap and gown, or excessively baggy and faddish "Jnco" blue jeans, or a "Rage Against the Machine" T-shirt. In his classes he would leap off desks, swing yardsticks as swords, scream, cry, laugh, and teach the most passionate lessons of history imaginable.

As exciting as his classes could be, he was a very serious teacher. His lessons were strategically emphasized with props, chalkboard drawings, and his massive Cold War era fabric map, which he hauled from class to class for decades and draped across his classroom

walls. His book reports and handwritten tests could be challenging, but not nearly as much as his notorious "map tests," on which students were required to label each country and sea in the world.

Perhaps the most special moments of his classes were on the final class of each semester, when Dr. Jones would weave the poetry of Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken" in with his incredible story of his trek across the planet. After that class, if a student had not already recognized it before, he realized that he was a fortunate soul to have had the unique privilege to study from this extraordinary man, who not only taught history, but lived it, and who not only lived, but redefined how life should be lived.

Dr. Jones will undoubtedly be missed by the many who knew and loved him. But though his life on Earth is now over, his spirit, legend, and legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of the untold thousands whose lives he touched.

IN MEMORY OF PATRICK SELLERS

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a proud veteran from my district who served his country well, loved his family and friends and epitomized generosity and selflessness.

As a proud soldier, Patrick Sellers earned his jump wings at Fort Benning before joining the Special Forces as an Intelligence Analyst. He was proud of his military service with good reason. In addition to those coveted Airborne wings, Staff Sergeant Sellers earned a Meritorious Service Medal, an Army Commendation Medal, an Army Achievement Medal, a Joint Services Achievement Medal, a German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency, a Non Commissioned Officers Development Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Army Service Medal. He capped off his military service working in the Counter Terrorism Unit at the National Security Agency.

But Patrick was more than just a soldier, he was a husband, a son, a brother, an uncle and most importantly, a dad. His wife of 20 years, Tamatha and their 12 year old son William Cade are deeply feeling his sudden loss. So are his extended family, friends, and co-workers, who will remember Patrick for his quick and decisive wit, his ability to relate to anyone in any circumstance and his uncanny ability to disarm people with an exceptional impersonation. Underneath his tough soldier "get it done" exterior was a love of life, of family and of football. His passion for NFL Football was evident in his competitive fantasy league. I'm sure there are coaches in the NFL who could have benefitted from his knowledge of the game.

To Tamatha, William Cade, his parents Terry and Eulata Sellers, his sister Sharon,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

niece Katrina and nephew Bryce, as long as you all continue to keep Patrick's spirit alive, the pain of his loss eases a little more. America is grateful for his selfless service and a better place for it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 85 I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, with the successful reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, it is important that we continue to bring awareness to the serious issue of domestic violence. It is a problem that affects one in every four women, and it is one that cannot be resolved by legislation alone.

That is why I commend the efforts of Mayor Mike Rawlings, City of Dallas, for his own efforts at the local level to increase awareness and rally our fellow Texans against domestic violence. This weekend, Mayor Rawlings will lead a "Men Against Abuse" rally in front of Dallas City Hall in a show of unified support for victims of domestic violence. During this rally, Mayor Rawlings hopes to publicly challenge the moral character of any individual who believes it is acceptable to commit domestic abuse.

Raising awareness has been a vital component of a comprehensive strategy to address this issue, and Mayor Rawlings' efforts are another step in the right direction. Domestic violence is one of the most underreported crimes, and speaking out will help victims to not only identify their circumstances, but also empower these individuals to stand up against their abusers and seek outside help.

Mr. Speaker, domestic violence is a problem that transcends race, age, and socioeconomic status, making the issue that much more important as we tear down boundaries across communities to stand up against domestic violence. While the Violence Against Women Act has historically provided effective tools to combat domestic violence for almost two decades, increased awareness is absolutely critical if we are to bring these lifesaving measures into the homes of victims of violence who would otherwise remain silent in the face of cruelty.

HONORING DEKE TOMPKINS

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the departure of a valued member of my team, Mr. Deke Tompkins.

A proud native of the Great Lakes State and a graduate of Michigan State University, Deke began working in my Washington, DC office as a staff assistant in 2006. Sitting in the front office, he quickly distinguished himself as a welcoming face to all who walked through the door. He was a great resource to those calling the office and made everyone he spoke with know that their voices were being heard.

Deke worked his way up to legislative assistant, working on projects in the district and managing a broad legislative portfolio, including: national security, foreign policy, law enforcement, immigration, and labor issues, to name a few. But above all, Deke was a passionate advocate for Michigan's military service members, veterans, and their families, as well as our local farmers and the Great Lakes.

Deke has been an invaluable member of our office—a team player who was always willing to pitch in wherever help was needed and a friend to us all. His enthusiasm in the office was contagious; his intense love for all things Michigan State unmatched. A hard-working, humble, and selfless person, Deke made a lasting impact in the lives of many, which is what public service is all about. Our team will not be the same without him.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Deke Tompkins and his outstanding service to the folks of Michigan's Sixth Congressional District. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors and know that he will continue on to do great things. Go Green!

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF U.S. ARMY CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER BRYAN HENDERSON

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Bryan Henderson for his selfless and valiant service to our nation. On March 11, 2013, our country lost a soldier and the 5th Congressional District lost a native son when his helicopter went down in southern Afghanistan.

As long as the Stars and Stripes continue to soar, Henderson's contributions to protecting the freedoms we hold so dear will never be forgotten. In a generation where so many men and women have answered the call to duty, his example of heroism and devotion embody what has truly made America the great nation it is today.

Today, our words seem futile in comparison to Henderson's service, but as written in 2 Corinthians 1:3, our prayer is "that the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulations, may be able to comfort those in troubling times."

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Bryan Henderson and extending thanks on behalf of a grateful nation. Countless lives have been changed for the better by his efforts, and he will remain in the hearts of Louisianians forever.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, on March 20, 2013, I was unavoidably absent from the House and missed rollcall votes 83, 84, 85, 86 and 87. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 25) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2014 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2023:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of the CBC Budget Substitute to H. Con. Res. 25 because it provides for serious deficit reduction, job creation, and promotes pragmatic economic growth. In a word: this budget puts America back in the black.

I wish to thank Chairwoman FUDGE of the CBC and Congressman SCOTT of Virginia, a Member of the CBC who helps to drive our budget, and Congresswoman GWEN MOORE who sits on the Budget Committee; Members who have taken the lead in steering our job-creating, morally righteous, and deficit-reducing budget to the House Floor.

The Members of this body have some very serious ideological differences that have manifested themselves in the respective budgets that the American people will hear over the course of the next few days. But at the end of the day we have to produce for the American people—and budget means that we must do just that—and do so by addressing both sides of the ledger.

That means tough, bedrock decisions about spending but also about revenue. My colleagues in the CBC have taken on this task in earnest and I believe produced a serious, pragmatic Fiscal Year 2014 budget alternative.

The FY 2014 CBC Budget entitled, "Pro-Growth, Pro-People, Pro-America," contains \$2.8 trillion in deficit reduction relative to current law, which would put debt on a downward path after the expiration of short-term stimulus spending. Debt is projected to fall from 78.8 percent of GDP in 2014 to 66.2 percent of GDP in 2023.

We include a lowering of the threshold for the tax cuts extended in the American Taxpayer Relief Act from \$450K to \$250K, a concept which I strongly supported in 2010, 2011, and 2012; taxing capital gains and dividends as ordinary income, and enacting a financial transactions tax.

The CBC Substitute also cancels the harmful sequestration, enacts a permanent "doc fix", and includes \$862 billion in jobs measures and long-term investments. Revenue

would rise to 20.5 percent of GDP by 2023 in the CBC's budget, compared to 19.1 percent under current policy. Spending would fall to 22.3 percent of GDP by 2023 under current policy, and would fall to the same level under the CBC's budget though with a great deal of short-term stimulus measures.

The CBC Budget protects and enhances Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP, TANF and other vital safety net programs that save millions of families from poverty.

The CBC Budget creates jobs and opportunity via new infrastructure investments, outlined below:

Maintenance and repair for public transit, highways, airports, ports, railroads, bridges and other infrastructure investments. (\$230 billion);

Workforce development programs such as the Workforce Investment Act Adult Program, the Dislocated Workers Program, Job Corps and other employment and training services. (\$13 billion);

Providing relief to states to preserve teacher, law enforcement and first responder jobs. (\$50 billion);

Neighborhood stabilization programs that provide affordable housing development, infrastructure improvements and other community development needs. (\$50 billion);

Veterans programs that honor our commitment to help our nation's soldiers after they come back from serving our country. (Increased by \$50 billion).

The CBC Budget also calls for significant tax reform measures that would enhance revenues over the next decade by \$2.7 trillion. Economic history has demonstrated that you cannot starve the government of revenues. To achieve our revenue goals, the CBC Budget outlines approximately \$4.2 trillion in revenue enhancements that Congress could use to achieve this goal, including:

Ending special tax breaks and closing tax loopholes. (\$1 trillion over 10 years);

Limiting tax preferences for Corporate Debt. (\$1.151 trillion over 10 years);

Enacting the "Buffet Rule" and a surcharge for millionaires. (\$460 billion over 10 years);

Reduce the "tax gap" through better tax enforcement. (\$107 billion over 10-years);

Ending the mortgage deduction for vacation homes and yachts. (\$10 billion over 10 years);

The CBC Budget addresses health disparities by fully funding the Affordable Care Act and providing strong support of the National Institute of Health. In contrast, the Republican Budget attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, while using the revenues to help achieve balance.

The elephant in the room is entitlement policy. Unlike discretionary spending, mandatory spending grew rapidly from 5 percent of GDP in 1962 to a range of 9 percent to 10.5 percent of GDP from 1975 to 2007, peaking in recession years because of automatic stabilizers. The American people spoke last year and their collective voice clearly said no to haphazard, immoral, and arbitrary cuts to their hard-earned benefits; and the Supreme Court raised its voice when it upheld the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act. It is the law of the land.

I am here to say that any type of entitlement reform will not be done on the backs of Seniors in the 18th District of Texas—and I am prepared to "stand in the gap" to protect their benefits.

And speaking of Texas, two years ago, my hometown of Houston, Texas was forced to lay off nearly one thousand municipal employees. When these employees are put on the unemployment line, libraries close, schools cut back on essential after-school programs, community centers lose personnel, police hours are trimmed, and the truly destitute become an afterthought.

Those tough budget decisions had a human cost and I hear from my constituents every day about them, and frankly, I don't want tax cuts for the wealthy at the expense of jobs for people in Texas.

Nonetheless, I stand here today and declare that the federal budget is a moral document, with meaning, fiber, and a unique texture; and the budget we craft, and what we do here today in the hallowed halls of Congress is really about the American people and the impact that our budget and fiscal policy decisions will have on them.

The Democratic Budget Alternatives stands in clear contrast to the budget that our Republican colleagues have put forward. This budget will reduce the deficit in a balanced and credible way, making difficult choices while providing investments that help create jobs now and build an even stronger economy for the future. But unlike the Republican budget—which ends the Medicare guarantee while providing tax breaks to millionaires—we ask the very wealthy and special interests to share responsibility for reducing the deficit. It is a shared American sacrifice.

This budget demonstrates that we can put our fiscal house in order without blindly slashing investments and breaking our promises to seniors, low-income kids, and individuals with disabilities. We will preserve the Medicare guarantee and work to strengthen it, along with Medicaid, and not ending it. We will provide tax relief for working families, not a tax windfall to millionaires and corporations that is financed by middle-income Americans. And we will protect the promise and opportunity of the American Dream for all, instead of leaving future generations behind.

Mr. Chair, let's roll-up our sleeves and get to work on a pro-growth, pro-people, and pro-American budget.

SUPPORTING THE MARCH FOR MARRIAGE

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support for the March for Marriage. Next week, individuals from across the country will travel to Washington, D.C., in order to participate in the March for Marriage and to highlight the fact that the institution of marriage is worth protecting through the Defense of Marriage Act.

Marriage is the sacred union between a man and a woman. On September 23, 1972, I was blessed to marry the former Sandra Jordan of Orlando, and this year we will celebrate 41 years of marriage.

Marriage is a vital part of the foundation upon which a strong and prosperous society must be built. It is the institution through which new life is formed, and it provides children

with mothers and fathers. Marriage plays an important role in children's development and success.

Marriage and strong families are indispensable contributors to the prosperity of our nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MS. BARBARA GELLER

HON. SUZAN K. DeBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Ms. DeBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Barbara Geller, who sadly passed away this past weekend.

Barbara was a committed and active volunteer in her community, serving a number of leadership roles over the years with local civic organizations. She was someone who believed strongly in the value of political participation and civic engagement to build a better Washington.

Barbara was a strong leader who many, including myself, came to rely on for advice and support. She demonstrated a great ability to bring people together around a common cause to make a difference in her community.

I was fortunate to have known Barbara and to have worked with her. She impressed me with her passion and devotion to whatever issue, project or person she decided to help or work on behalf of. She was committed to the democratic process and the positive change that could happen when people came together, organized and stood up for what they believed in.

She will be missed by all of us who valued her calm, wise, and elegant way of working with others. My thoughts and prayers go to her husband Arthur, her children Randy and Betsy, and the rest of her family.

HONORING DR. BERNARD EICHOLD, 2012 MOBILIAN OF THE YEAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, many times this House honors outstanding and influential Americans who have given of themselves to make a difference in the lives of their fellow citizens. However, it is not often that we shine the spotlight on individuals who literally have safeguarded the health and well-being of hundreds of thousands. Dr. Bernard Eichold is one such example and I'm proud to pay tribute to him today as the 2012 Mobilian of the Year.

Born and raised in Mobile, Dr. Bert Eichold was taught early the importance of serving others. Through his parents, Dr. Samuel and Charlotte Eichold, he gained an understanding of the vital role that proper medical care and preventative educational outreach programs play in the well-being of a community. For this reason, it is not surprising that he chose to follow in his father's footsteps by becoming a doctor himself.

Bert attended his father's alma mater, Tulane University, where he obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree, Master of Public

Health Degree, Medical Doctor Degree, and his Doctorate of Public Health Degree. Like his father, he also served honorably in the United States Navy, rising to the rank of Captain before pursuing a full-time career in medicine at home in Mobile.

A long-time physician, Bert touched many lives with his caring approach to health care. But like his father before him, he didn't limit his contributions to the confines of his medical practice. In 1990, he stepped forward to take on the role as health care advocate for the entire county. As the Health Officer for Mobile County, he is responsible for safeguarding the health and the environment for over 400 thousand people.

After nearly a quarter century of his proactive leadership, the Mobile County Health Department has effectively doubled the number of patients to over 140,000 a year. His dedication to the health education and prevention also helped to place him as Area Health Officer for Public Health Area XI for the State of Alabama Department of Public Health.

Also like his father, Bert took on highly respected teaching roles at the University of South Alabama. He is Adjunct Professor in the Department of Medicine where he has served as the Co-Course Director of Public Health and Epidemiology. He is also science advisor to the NASA DEVELOP National Program which extends NASA Earth Science research to the community through the volunteer work of local college students. In 2012, he was presented NASA's Exceptional Public Achievement Medal for this work in support of NASA DEVELOP in South Alabama since 2003.

His dedication to public health and education is matched by his involvement in the local community. He is currently serving as Chairman of the Board of the Community Foundation of South Alabama. He is an active member of the Alabama Public Health Association, Mobile United, and the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce. His philanthropy and volunteer efforts have also touched more than 50 organizations in South Alabama.

And finally, Bert carries on the proud tradition of his father who was named the 1989 Mobilian of the Year.

On behalf of the Cottage Hill Civitan Club and the people of Mobile, I would like to extend congratulations to Dr. Bert Eichold on being named the 2012 Mobilian of the Year.

IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Women's History Month. Recently, we have witnessed history being made for women in the armed forces. In a long overdue decision, former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta lifted the ban on women serving in combat roles. This decision opens up every position for advancement within the military to women.

Dating back to the American Revolutionary War, women have proudly served in the Armed Forces. Their roles may have varied throughout history but they have always answered the call to action for their country. During the Civil War, Clara Barton became a household name because of her service as a nurse and later as the founder of the Amer-

ican Red Cross. In the World War II era, the iconic image of Rosie the Riveter represents the women who stepped up to help their country in a time of need. Under the Obama Administration, Michale Flournoy was the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, the third-highest-ranking woman in the Pentagon's history.

For more than a decade now, America has been engaging in a new method of warfare. With the ever-increasing use of technology, our military is now at a place where gender differences are less important. As the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have shown, the ban on women in combat roles was mostly theoretical because women served and continue to serve in de facto combat roles every day.

Women have had the opportunity to serve in combat roles in other countries for years. It is long past time that the U.S. gives this opportunity to their female soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Women's History Month, I am extremely pleased that our military made history by looking at this outdated policy and made the long overdue decision to reverse the ban on women in combat.

IN RECOGNITION OF DIVINA GROSSMAN

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Divina Grossman on her appointment as the Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Dr. Grossman grew up in a family of teachers and has proudly carried that legacy to the pinnacle of her profession. Her dual career in nursing and education provides a window into her character: compassionate, dedicated, and eager to apply her skills to the benefit of others. After earning her degree in Nursing from the University of Santo Tomas, Dr. Grossman departed her home country of the Philippines to continue to hone her academic prowess. She would go on to earn her Masters in Nursing at the University of Miami and a Doctorate at the University of Pennsylvania.

An outstanding tenure at Florida International University led to her appointment as Director of the School of Nursing, followed by promotion to Dean. She subsequently served as Dean for the University's College of Nursing and Health Sciences. As Dean, Dr. Grossman further developed the nursing program, strengthened partnerships with public and private institutions, raised funds for scholarships and lab facilities, and greatly expanded the College's endowment. She also oversaw the opening of Florida International's College of Medicine and pioneered a program to deploy medical students into local neighborhoods. As the founding Vice President of Engagement at Florida International, Dr. Grossman worked tirelessly to better connect the University to local communities and global issues. She is an ideal fit for UMass Dartmouth, and I am certain that the University's many years of academic excellence will only continue under her guidance and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pride to recognize Dr. Divina Grossman as the seventh Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. I have no doubt that her decades of experience and robust record of leadership will make a positive, lasting impact on

the UMass Dartmouth community. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Dr. Grossman and thank her for her outstanding contributions to both medicine and academia.

MICHAEL RILEY—A PATRIOT WHO
NEVER TOOK "NO" FOR AN ANSWER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Michael Riley, an American patriot, exemplifies that through dedication and determination, one can achieve great things in our country. Faced with adversity from a young age, Michael was no stranger to obstacles. He wasn't brought up by the most encouraging family. Instead of being surrounded by love and support, he was laughed at and ridiculed by his family members for wanting to serve and represent his country.

Michael was always small in stature, in comparison to others his age, and he was told he would fail at his dream for that very reason. Despite these hardships, he was determined to succeed. Michael had his eyes set on his goal, and there was no turning back for him. On his own, he enlisted himself in the Marines just one week after turning 18. He chose the Marines, the toughest branch, because he wanted to prove wrong everybody that tried to tell him he couldn't do it. Before long, Michael surpassed everyone's expectations, or lack thereof. It didn't take much time for Michael to impress his superiors with his work ethic and determination, eventually earning the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4, a remarkable achievement.

Every day, Michael was out there serving his country in full force. He recalled the days that he experienced conflicts many others hadn't at his age. One day, his squad was ambushed and surrounded by their enemy. Adrenaline was pumping, but you could still smell some fear in the air. In the attack, his squad leader became wounded, and his lieutenant was killed. It wasn't the outcome they had hoped for, but the fight had to go on. When he was only 19, Michael led a squad of Marines in combat, a task that not many would be able to accomplish at such a young age.

Throughout his service, Michael served in several conflicts, including Vietnam, Cuba, and Iraq. But despite his service overseas, he says he is most proud of his service securing our nation's borders. When his service in the Marines was over, Michael joined the United States Coast Guard. During the devastating aftermath of September 11, 2001, he was appointed Task Force Leader to design and implement the Sea Marshal Program, a security measure that, to this day, has provided safety and security for the Port of Houston. The program, which Michael oversaw from start until finished, was launched to prevent terrorism in a given port. Michael and his armed protection teams boarded ships and guarded them for their voyage through the Houston Ship Channel.

For his involvement in the Sea Marshal Program, Michael Riley was awarded the 9/11 medal by the United States Department of Transportation. This is a very highly regarded honor that recognizes civilians or military men and women who made significant and heroic accomplishments after the September 11, 2011, terrorist attacks on our country. Overall, Michael has received 20 medals and ribbons throughout his illustrious career, the highest one being the 9/11 medal.

Michael exemplifies a true American patriot who never let anyone or anything stand in his way. I've met Michael several times. He's never been someone to boast about his prestigious accomplishments being the humble person he is. However, today, I would like to thank him and recognize him for his dedication to keeping America the "land of the free and the home of the brave." Despite the hardships, he faced when he was young, and everyone that told him he couldn't do it, he served our country and he served it well. It takes a very special kind of person to accomplish everything that Michael did throughout his service to America.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE NORTHWEST INDIANA BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY HALL OF FAME'S CLASS OF 2013

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep respect and admiration that I rise to commend five exceptional leaders from Indiana who were recently honored as the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame's Class of 2013. Created by The Times and BusiNess magazine, induction into the Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame is determined by a panel of local civic and business leaders. While there were many deserving nominees, the individuals selected as the 2013 Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame inductees include: former Senator Richard Lugar, Tom Collins Sr., Danita Johnson Hughes, Tom Sourlis, and Steve Teibel. For their many contributions to the enhancement of Northwest Indiana, these honorees will be recognized at a ceremony at the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza in Merrillville, Indiana, on Friday, March 22, 2013.

Former Senator Richard Lugar, from Indianapolis, is the Lifetime Achievement Award recipient for 2013. Richard Lugar's first elected office was on the Indianapolis Public Schools Board of Commissioners, where he served from 1964 until 1967. He was then elected mayor of Indianapolis in 1967, and under his leadership the city and Marion County governments merged through Unigov. After serving two terms as mayor, Richard Lugar was elected to the United States Senate in 1976. During his 36 years in office, Senator Lugar proved to be a noteworthy leader, extending a positive influence upon urban policy, American agricultural policy, and foreign policy. He is an activist for American energy independence, strong national security, U.S. leadership in the world, and economic growth. Senator Richard Lugar and Senator Sam Nunn were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2000 for the

Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, which reduced the nuclear threat created by the breakup of the former Soviet Union. Currently, Richard Lugar is working with Indiana University as a distinguished scholar and professor of practice in the university's new School of Global and International Studies. He also co-chairs the new Indiana University International Advisory Committee with former U.S. Representative Lee Hamilton. Senator Lugar is worthy of the honors bestowed upon him and we are truly blessed as a nation for his extraordinary career in American government.

Tom Collins Sr., of Valparaiso, is the chief executive officer of Luke Oil, a family owned and operated business that was founded in 1967 by Tom's father-in-law, Ralph Luke, in Hobart, Indiana. Currently, the company distributes more than 300 million gallons of fuel annually in the Midwest. Luke Oil's sales reached the \$1 billion mark last year and their volume has grown 20 percent each year for the past five years. In 2005, the company bought County Line Orchard, in Hobart, where they have held numerous fundraisers to benefit charities including the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana and various veterans' organizations. For his exemplary leadership skills, and his dedication to supporting charitable organizations, Tom Collins is to be commended.

Danita Johnson Hughes is the president and chief executive officer of Edgewater Systems for Balanced Living in Gary. Edgewater is an organization that provides behavioral healthcare services to individuals and families in the community of Gary and throughout the region. Under Danita's remarkable leadership, the organization has become a respected resource for those in need, and through its services, Edgewater touches the lives of more than 100,000 people each year. Danita continues to give back to the community and dedicates much of her time to the One Region, One Vision initiative and the Northwest Indiana Forum.

Tom Sourlis is the founder and chairman of Mortar Net Solutions, in Burns Harbor. Mortar Net, a product invented by Tom, prevents mortar droppings from clogging weepholes designed to allow water to exit a building wall. Mortar Net is a hugely successful product and is currently used on cavity wall construction throughout North America. In addition to his successful business, Tom devotes much of his time, efforts, and support to charitable organizations throughout Northwest Indiana, including Tradewinds, the Crisis Center, Parents as Teachers, and the Porter County Community Foundation. For his passionate devotion to such causes, Tom is worthy of the highest praise.

Steven Teibel is the third generation of his family to own and operate Teibel's Family Restaurant, in Schererville, which originally opened in 1929. Due to Steven's tremendous leadership skills and excellent customer service, Teibel's continues to succeed and remains a staple in Northwest Indiana. Steven also dedicates much of his time and efforts to serving those in need and is very active in numerous community organizations, including Meals on Wheels, the Hammond YMCA, the American Heart Association, and the Shrine of Christ's Passion. For his commitment to community service, Steven is to be commended.

Mr. Speaker, the lives of every citizen living in Northwest Indiana has been enriched be-

cause of the selfless good work of these five extraordinary individuals. I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding leaders on their induction into the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame. These individuals are most deserving of this honor, and for their leadership and commitment to the Northwest Indiana community, each of them is worthy of our respect and admiration.

AMENDMENT TO THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 933

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, if I had been able to offer an amendment to the Continuing Resolution, H.R. 933 I was prepared to offer the following:

AMENDMENT TO SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 933 OFFERED BY MR. KINZINGER OF ILLINOIS

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

PROHIBITION ON FUNDING:

SEC.—None of the funds made available in 3 this Act may be used—(1) to carry out any provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) or title I or subtitle B of title II of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152), or the amendments made by such Act, title, or subtitle; or (2) for rulemaking under such Act, title, or subtitle.

HONORING STEVEN FIRESTEIN AND THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN CANCER FUND FOR CHILDREN AND KIDS CANCER CONNECTION

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the American Cancer Fund for Children and Kids Cancer Connection on the occasion of their 20th anniversary, and to recognize them for their invaluable contributions to the cancer community.

The City of Thousand Oaks, in my Congressional district of Ventura County, has proclaimed April 13–20 as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Week." I am pleased to join Mayor Claudia Bill-de-La Pena in thanking Steven Firestein, the founder of American Cancer Fund for Children and its sister organization, Kids Cancer Connection, for his dedication and compassion, which has helped thousands of children living with this terrible disease.

The American Cancer Fund for Children and the Kids Cancer Connection provide vital psychosocial services for children undergoing cancer treatment at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Los Angeles County; University of Southern California Medical Center; Mattel Children's Hospital at Ronald Reagan—University of California Los Angeles Medical Center, and other hospitals across the United States.

Over the past twenty years, the American Cancer Fund for Children has given over 40,000 handmade, decorated hats and caps to

young cancer patients who have lost their hair from chemotherapy and radiation. Initiatives like the Magical Caps for Kids program help lift the spirits and boost the self-esteem of children undergoing exhaustive and painful courses of treatment. The American Cancer Fund for Children also sponsors the Courageous Kid Award, which organizes ceremonies and hospital celebrations to recognize a child's bravery and determination in fighting the battle against childhood cancer.

Kids Cancer Connection provides educational resources to the public and strives to raise public awareness about childhood cancer.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Steven Firestein for his remarkable efforts on behalf of the thousands of children and families affected by childhood cancer.

COLUMBIA COUNTY BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Columbia County of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which will celebrate its bicentennial anniversary on March 22, 2013.

On March 22, 1813, Columbia County separated from Northumberland County. The area was named for Columbia, a popular poetic name for America at the time and one that alludes to Christopher Columbus and his discovery of our great nation. In 1870, Bloomsburg was named as the County Seat and is still considered to be the only "incorporated" town in Pennsylvania. Today, about 66,000 Americans call Columbia County home. They contribute to our nation by working hard for a living and caring for their families. Many of them are earning an education at Bloomsburg University, working at Geisinger-Bloomsburg Hospital or tending to family-owned farms or businesses.

The County is noted for its natural beauty and historic sites. The Susquehanna River and several tributaries flow through the region which also has rolling farmlands, State game lands, State forests, and nature preserves. Notable architectural sites are the Catawissa Friends Meetinghouse constructed in 1789, the Columbia County Courthouse built in 1848, the Berwick Armory constructed in 1922, Bloomsburg Historic District, and 23 covered bridges, the third largest concentration of covered bridges in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, for two hundred years Columbia County has been an integral part of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and our great nation. Therefore, I commend all those citizens who have lived and worked for two centuries in this beautiful and historic area.

HONORING MR. ROD TAYLOR ON HIS SELECTION TO THE NAFCU BOARD

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rod Taylor on his recent selec-

tion to the Board of Directors at the National Association of Federal Credit Unions, NAFCU.

Mr. Taylor has been President and CEO of Barksdale Federal Credit Union in Bossier City since 2008. Barksdale FCU is the largest member-owned credit union in Louisiana. Mr. Taylor previously served as Barksdale Federal Credit Union's Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer, a post he held for over sixteen years.

Mr. Taylor served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1973–1977 and received his MBA from Oregon State University before he started working in the financial industry with US National Bank of Oregon in 1983.

Mr. Taylor also brings experience as a board member of other businesses, and he will bring a tremendous amount of expertise to the NAFCU Board. I wish Mr. Taylor the best of luck in his new role on the NAFCU Board and look forward to working with him in this capacity. I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Rod Taylor on this achievement.

TRIBUTE TO BENJAMIN PAGE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Benjamin Page for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Benjamin Page is the Director of the Des Moines Park and Recreation Department, where he manages a \$15.8 million budget that includes 76 parks, 42 miles of trails, five aquatic centers, three public golf courses, and the Principal Riverwalk. Benjamin's role also tasks him with overseeing well known local landmarks such as the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, Blank Park Zoo and Principal Park, home of the Iowa Cubs, while serving as a liaison for each location's respective foundations. When he's not in the office, Mr. Page serves on a number of boards including the Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau Sports Commission, First Tee of Greater Des Moines, and the Blank Park Zoo Foundation. Ben is also a proud recipient of the Governor's Award for Outstanding Service to Iowa's Children in the Area of Environmental Awareness. Outside of his official commitments, Ben loves spending time with his wife Kim, and their children Sophia and Bryce. Together they enjoy participating in several activities of the city's recreational programming. In all facets of his life, Benjamin is an example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Benjamin in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Page for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Benjamin on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SCREEN ACT FOR 113TH CONGRESS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, the month of March is national colorectal cancer awareness month. I introduce today the Supporting Colorectal Examination and Education Now (SCREEN) Act. This legislation removes barriers in colon cancer screening, one of the most effective preventive health screenings available. The bill helps save lives, improve quality of care, while also reducing Medicare costs in the process. I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

The statistics surrounding colon cancer are startling. Over 50,000 people will die this year from this disease according to the American Cancer Society. Colon cancer is the number two cancer killer in the United States for both men and women. Many of us in this chamber have had friends, family members, and associates affected by this terrible disease.

Thankfully, colorectal cancer is highly preventable with appropriate screening. According to an important study recently published in the New England Journal of Medicine, colorectal cancer deaths may be reduced by over 50 percent by removing precancerous polyps during the screening colonoscopy. Colon cancer screening is a unique preventive service as pre-cancerous polyps are removed during the same encounter, thus preventing cancer from developing, as opposed to other cancer screenings where early detection is the goal. That is one reason why the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force provides an "A" rating for CRC screenings.

Unfortunately, only half of the Medicare population is being screened, despite the availability of a Medicare colon cancer screening benefit. According to CMS and the American Cancer Society, Medicare claims indicate that only 55–58 percent of beneficiaries have had a colonoscopy or any colorectal cancer test. Screening rates among minority populations are especially low despite the fact that incidences of colon cancer are higher in these populations. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) concludes that 1,000 additional colorectal cancer deaths will be prevented each year if screening rates reached 70 percent.

In addition to saving lives, colorectal cancer screening has been demonstrated to save Medicare long-term costs as noted by the New England Journal of Medicine in a recent article. The direct costs of treating colorectal cancer in 2010 reached \$4 billion. These costs can be partially avoided with proper screening.

Congress can and should help increase the number of individuals receiving colorectal cancer screenings. The SCREEN Act takes several much-needed steps to increase access to life-saving colorectal cancer screenings for Medicare beneficiaries.

The SCREEN Act waives all Medicare beneficiary cost-sharing for colorectal cancer screenings where polyps are removed during the examination. Currently, Medicare waives cost-sharing for any colorectal cancer screening recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. However, should the beneficiary have a precancerous polyp removed, the procedure is no longer considered a “screening” for Medicare purposes. The unintended consequence of this is that the beneficiary is obligated to pay the Medicare coinsurance. This is an unexpected and unwelcome “sticker shock” that does nothing to promote screening or improve patient care. The Administration announced in February 2013 that private insurers participating in state-based health insurance exchanges must remove all cost sharing for colon cancer screenings where a polyp was removed. We must have a similar policy in the Medicare program.

The SCREEN Act also provides incentives for Medicare providers to participate in nationally recognized quality improvement registries so that our Medicare beneficiaries are in fact receiving the quality screening they deserve. Congress and other organizations can look to the SCREEN Act as a model for Medicare reimbursement reform as the bill reimburses providers in a budget neutral manner based on the quality of the procedure and not on the quantity of services.

Lastly, the SCREEN Act would allow a Medicare beneficiary to sit down and discuss the screening with a physician before undergoing the procedure. The federal government and patient advocacy groups have concluded that the “fear of the procedure” is a major impediment to increasing colorectal cancer screening rates. This pre-procedure visit is good clinical practice and would help improve screening utilization. The patient plays an integral role in colon cancer screening aside from just showing up for the procedure. This role dictates the quality of the screening itself. Medicare should recognize this and provide coverage for a pre-screening visit to review the preparation and procedure itself. There is no reason why a Medicare beneficiary sees the physician for the first time right before being sedated for the procedure.

Promoting access to colorectal cancer screening is good policy. It will save lives and reduce costs to families and the health care system. Please join with me in the fight against colorectal cancer by cosponsoring this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE YOUTH PROMISE ACT

HON. ROBERT C. “BOBBY” SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. JONES, to introduce the “Youth Prison Reduction through Mentoring, Inter-

vention, Support and Education Act”, or “Youth PROMISE Act” (YPA), a bill we believe will greatly reduce crime and its associated costs and losses. Senator LANDRIEU of Louisiana and Senator CASEY of Pennsylvania have indicated their intent to file companion YPA legislation in the Senate.

The Youth PROMISE Act implements the best policy recommendations from crime policy makers, researchers, practitioners, analysts, and law enforcement officials from across the political spectrum concerning evidence- and research-based strategies to reduce gang violence and crime. Under the Youth PROMISE Act, communities facing the greatest youth gang and crime challenges will be able to enact a comprehensive, coordinated response and intervention that includes the active involvement of representatives from law enforcement, court services, schools, social service organizations, health and mental health care providers, the business community, and other public and private community-based service organizations, including faith-based organizations. These key players will form a council to develop a comprehensive plan for implementing evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies for young people who are involved, or at risk of becoming involved, in gangs, delinquency, or the juvenile or criminal justice system to redirect them toward productive and law-abiding alternatives.

Title I: Federal Coordination of Local and Tribal Juvenile Justice Information and Efforts. Sec. 101 creates a PROMISE Advisory Panel. This Panel will assist the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in selecting PROMISE community grantees. The Panel will also develop standards for the evaluation of juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity prevention and intervention approaches carried out under the PROMISE Act. Sec. 102 provides for specific data collection in each designated geographic area to assess the needs and existing resources for juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity prevention and intervention. This data will then facilitate the strategic geographic allocation of resources provided under the Act to areas of greatest need for assistance.

Title II: PROMISE Grants. Sec. 202 establishes grants to enable local and tribal communities, via PROMISE Coordinating Councils (PCCs) (Sec. 203), to conduct an objective assessment (Sec. 204) regarding juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity and resource needs and strengths in the community. The assessment will include an estimate of the total amount spent in the previous year by the community and other entities for the incarceration of offenders who committed offenses in the community. Based upon the assessment, the PCCs will then develop plans that include a broad array of evidence-based prevention and intervention programs. These programs will be responsive to the needs and strengths of the community, account for the community's cultural and linguistic needs, and utilize approaches that have been proven to be effective in reducing involvement in or continuing involvement in delinquent conduct or criminal street gang activity. The PCCs can then apply for federal funds, on the basis of greatest need, to implement their PROMISE plans (Sec. 211–213). In addition, each PCC will be required to identify cost savings sustained from investing in prevention and intervention practices and explain how those sav-

ings will be reinvested in the continuing implementation of the PROMISE Plan (Sec. 212). Title II also provides for national evaluation of PROMISE programs and activities (Sec. 223) based on performance standards developed by the PROMISE Advisory Panel.

Title III: PROMISE Research Center. Sec. 301 establishes a National Research Center for Proven Juvenile Justice Practices. This Center will collect and disseminate information to PROMISE Coordinating Councils and the public on current research and other information about evidence-based and promising practices related to juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity and intervention. Sec. 302 provides for regional academic research partners to assist PCCs in developing their assessments and plans.

During my more than 30 years of public service, I have learned that when it comes to crime policy, we have a choice—we can reduce crime, or we can play politics. For far too long, Congress has chosen to play politics by enacting so-called “tough on crime” slogans such as “three strikes and you're out”, “mandatory minimum sentencing”, “life without parole”, “abolish parole” or “you do the adult crime, you do the adult time”. My personal favorite is “no cable TV in prisons.” You can imagine the cable guy disconnecting the cable and then waiting for the crime rate to drop. As appealing as these policies may sound, their impacts range from a negligible reduction in crime to an increase in crime.

In spite of the counterproductive nature of these “tough on crime” laws, over the past two decades, Congress has continued to enact slogan-based sentencing policies. As a result, the United States now has the highest average incarceration rate of any nation in the world. At over 700 persons incarcerated for every 100,000 in the population, the U.S. far exceeds the world average incarceration rate of about 100 per 100,000. Russia is the next closest in rate of incarceration with about 600 per 100,000 citizens. No other nation is even close. Among countries most comparable to the U.S., Great Britain is 153 per 100,000, Australia is 129, Canada is 116, Germany is 95, France is 89, and Japan is 63. India, the world's largest Democracy, is 33 per 100,000 and China, the world's largest country by population, is 119 per 100,000. Since 1970, the number of individuals incarcerated in the U.S. has risen from approximately 300,000 to over 2 million.

This increase in incarceration does not come for free. Since 1980, the cost of corrections in this country has risen from about \$7 billion annually to over \$68 billion a year.

And the U.S. has some of the world's most severe punishments for crime, including for juveniles. Of the more than 2400 juveniles now serving sentences of life without parole, ALL are in the U.S. Some were given their sentence as first-time offenders under circumstances such as being a passenger in a car from which there was a drive-by shooting.

The impact of all this focus on tough law enforcement approaches falls disproportionately on minorities, particularly Blacks and Hispanics. While the incarceration rate in the United States is approximately 700 per 100,000, for Blacks the average rate is over 2200 per 100,000, and the rate in some jurisdictions exceeds 4,000 per 100,000 Blacks, a rate 40 times the international average. For Black boys being born today, the Sentencing

Project estimates that one in every three will end up incarcerated in their lifetime without an appropriate intervention. These children are on what the Children's Defense Fund has described as a "cradle-to-prison pipeline."

Despite all of our concentration on being tough on crime, the problem persists, and reports suggest that it is growing in some jurisdictions. While nothing in the Youth PROMISE Act eliminates any of the current tough on crime laws, and while it is understood that law enforcement will still continue to enforce those laws, research and analysis, as well as common sense, tells us that no matter how tough we are on the people we prosecute today, unless we are addressing the underlying reasons for why they develop into serious criminals, nothing will change. The next wave of offenders will simply replace the ones we incarcerate, and the crimes continue. So, just continuing to be "tough" will have little long term impact on crime.

There is now overwhelming evidence to show that it is entirely feasible to move children from a cradle to prison pipeline to a cradle to college and career pipeline. All the credible research and evidence shows that a continuum of evidenced-based prevention and intervention programs for youth identified as being at risk of involvement in delinquent behavior, and those already involved, will greatly reduce crime and save much more than they cost when compared to the avoided law enforcement and social welfare expenditures. There are programs for teen pregnancy prevention, prenatal care, new parent training, nurse home visits, Head Start, quality education, after-school programs, summer recreation and jobs, guaranteed college scholarships, and job-training that have been scientifically proven to cost-effectively reduce crime. And the research reveals that these programs are most effective when provided in the context of a coordinated, collaborative local strategy involving law enforcement, social services and other local public and private entities working with children identified as at risk of involvement in the criminal justice system. This is what the Youth PROMISE Act supports.

Aside from reducing crime and providing better results in the lives of our youth, many of these programs funded under the Youth PROMISE Act will save more money than they cost. We know this because it has already been done at the state level. For example, the state of Pennsylvania implemented similar type programs in 100 communities across the state using a process very similar to the one provided for in the Youth PROMISE Act. The state invested \$60 million over a ten year period, and as a result of the programs implemented, the state yielded a savings of \$300 million. In other words, the state found that it saved, on average, \$5 for every \$1 spent during the study period.

The bill is supported by 53 original co-sponsors and a coalition of over 250 national, state and local government, professional, civil rights, education and religious organizations listed below, a list that continues to grow. We know how to reduce crime, and we know that we can do it in a way that saves much more money than it costs. Our children, victims of crime, taxpayers and our economy can no longer afford for us to delay adoption of the Youth PROMISE Act. So, I ask my colleagues to join me in passing this bill and seeing to it that it is quickly enacted into law.

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THE YOUTH PROMISE ACT

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

African American Ministers in Action; Afterschool Alliance; Alliance for Children and Families; American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP); American Bar Association; American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); American Correctional Association; American Council of Chief Defenders; American Federation of School Administrators, AFL-CIO; American Federation of Teachers (AFT); American Friends Service Committee (AFSC); American Jewish Congress; American Probation and Parole Association; American Psychological Association; Asian American Justice Center; ASPIRA, Inc.; Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law; Boy Scouts of America; Boys and Girls Clubs of America; Campaign for Youth Justice.

Catholic Charities USA; Center for Children's Law and Policy; Child Welfare League of America; Children's Defense Fund; Coalition for Juvenile Justice; Coalition on Human Needs; Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL); Correctional Education Association; Council for Educators of At-Risk and Delinquent Youth; Council for Opportunity in Education; Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA); Democrats for Education Reform; Family Justice; Federal CURE; Fight Crime: Invest in Kids; First Five Years Fund; First Focus Campaign for Children; Girls Inc.; Immigrant Justice Network; Institute for Community Peace.

Justice Policy Institute; Juvenile Justice Trainers Association; Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; League of Young Voters; Legal Action Center; Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service; Mennonite Central Committee Washington Office; Mental Health America; Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund (MALDEF); National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd; National African-American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.; National Alliance of Black School Educators; National Alliance to End Homelessness; National Alliance for Faith and Justice; National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice; National Association of Counties (NACo); National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

National Association of Juvenile Correctional Agencies; National Association of Secondary School Principals; National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO); National Black Police Association; National Center for Youth Law; National Consortium of TASC (Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities) Programs; National Council for Community Behavioral Health; National Council of La Raza; National Council on Crime and Delinquency; National Council on Educating Black Children; National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ); National Council for Urban (Formations) Peace, Justice and Empowerment; National Education Association; National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health; National Head Start Association; National Hire Network; National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild.

National Juvenile Defender Center; National Juvenile Detention Association; National Juvenile Justice Network; National Network for Youth; National Organization of Black Law Enforcement (NOBLE); National Organization of Concerned Black Men, Inc.; National Partnership for Juvenile Services; National Parent Teacher Association (PTA); National Trust for the Development of African-American Men; National Urban League;

National Women's Law Center; Open Society Policy Center; The Peace Alliance; Penal Reform International; pre[k]now; Presbyterian Church (USA), Washington Office; Prison Legal News; Prisons Foundation; Restorative Community Foundation.

Southeast Asia Resource Action Center; Southern Poverty Law Center; Students for Sensible Drug Policy; The Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Law and Policy Section; The Rebecca Project for Human Rights; The School Social Work Association of America; The Sentencing Project; The Student Peace Alliance; Therapeutic Communities of America (TCA); Time Dollar Youth Court; TimeBanks USA; Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations; United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries; United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society; United Neighborhood Centers of America; U.S. Conference of Mayors; U.S. Dream Academy; U.S. Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (USPRA); VOICES for America's Children; W. Haywood Burns Institute; Washington Office on Latin America; Youth Law Center; Youth Matter America.

STATE AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Alabama: Alabama Youth Justice Coalition; Equal Justice Initiative; Southern Juvenile Defender Center; Southern Poverty Law Center; VOICES for Alabama's Children; Parents, Youth, Children and Family Training Institute. Arizona: Children's Action Alliance. California: Alturas Mas Altas; Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Office of Restorative Justice; Asian Law Caucus; Barrios Unidos—Santa Cruz Chapter; California Public Defenders Association City and County of San Francisco; City of Los Angeles; City of Pasadena; Contra Costa County Public Defender's Office; Everychild Foundation; Faith Communities for Families and Children; Homies Unidos; Juvenile Court Judges of California; Juvenile Probation Commission of San Francisco, L.A. Unified School District; L.A. Youth Justice Coalition; Leaders in Community Alternatives, Inc.; Pacific Juvenile Defender Center; San Francisco Youth Commission. Colorado: The Pendulum Foundation. Connecticut: Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance; Families Moving Forward; The Poor People's Alliance, Connecticut Chapter. Delaware: Delaware Center for Justice (DE). District of Columbia: Young America Works Public Charter School; Columbia Heights Shaw Family Collaborative; DC Alliance of Youth Advocates; DC NAACP Youth Council; Facilitating Leadership in Youth (FLY); Justice for DC Youth; Latin American Youth Center; Life Pieces to Masterpieces, Inc. Florida: Children's Campaign, Inc.; Florida Public Defender Association, Inc.; Florida Public Defender, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Florida Families for Fair Sentences; Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office. Illinois: ACLU of Illinois; Chicago Area Project; John Howard Association of Illinois, Juvenile Justice Initiative of Illinois, Midwest Juvenile Defender Center, PTA of Illinois, United in Peace, Inc. Kansas: H.O.P.E., Inc. Kansas CURE. Louisiana: Families & Friends of La.'s Incarcerated Children; Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana. Maryland: Advocates for Children and Youth; CASA of Maryland, Inc.; Fusion Partnerships, Inc.; Identity, Inc.; Law Office of Anthony J. Keber; Maryland CURE; Maryland Department of Juvenile Services; Maryland Juvenile Justice Coalition; Maryland Office of the Public Defender; Public Justice Center. Massachusetts: Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race & Justice; Citizens for Juvenile Justice; Youth Advocacy Project of the Committee for Public Counsel Services. Michigan: Michigan After-School Partnership; Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency.

Minnesota: Minnesota Juvenile Justice Coalition. Mississippi: Mississippi CURE; Mississippi Youth Justice Project. Nebraska: VOICES for Children in Nebraska. New Hampshire: New Hampshire Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. New Jersey: New Jersey Association on Correction. New Mexico: County of Santa Fe; New Mexico Council on Crime and Delinquency; New Mexico Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. New York: Center for Community Alternatives; Central American Legal Assistance; City of New York; City of New York Department of Juvenile Justice; Correctional Association of New York; The Fortune Society; Juvenile Justice Center of Suffolk University Law School; Quad A For KIDS / A Rochester Area Community Foundation Initiative. North Carolina: ACLU of North Carolina; Action for Children North Carolina; Council for Children's Rights; UNC Juvenile Justice Clinic, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law. Ohio: ACLU of Ohio; Franklin County Public Defender; Hispanic Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program; Juvenile Justice Coalition; Peace in the Hood; United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries; VOICES for Ohio's Children. Oregon: Partnership for Safety and Justice. Pennsylvania: Mental Health Association in Pennsylvania; Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. Puerto Rico: Puerto Rico Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Rhode Island: The Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence. South Carolina: Alston Wilkes Society; The Children's Trust of South Carolina. South Dakota: Parents Who Care Coalition. Tennessee: Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth. Texas: Texas Criminal Justice Coalition. Utah: Utah Commission on Criminal Justice and Juvenile Justice. Virginia: Barrios Unidos—Virginia Chapter; Families & Allies of Virginia's Youth; JustChildren; Keeping Our Kids Safe; The Newport News Violence Prevention Network; Mid-Atlantic Juvenile Defender Center, Juvenile Law and Policy Clinic, University of Richmond School of Law; Richmond Peace Education Center; The Center for Community Development, Inc.; The Southeastern Tidewater Opportunity Project (S.T.O.P.); The S.T.O.P. Family Investment Center at Oakmont North; Virginia Coalition for Juvenile Justice; Virginia Commonwealth University School of Education; Virginia Commonwealth University Center for School-Community Collaboration; Virginia CURE (VA); Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice. Washington: Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; Washington Defender Association; Washington Defender Association's Immigration Project. Wisconsin: ATTIC Correctional Services, Inc.; Wisconsin Council on Children and Families.

LOCAL JURISDICTIONS

City of East Cleveland (OH); City of Hampton (VA); City of Los Angeles (CA); City of New York (NY); City of Newport News (VA); City of Norfolk (VA); City of Pasadena (CA); City of Philadelphia (PA); City of Pittsburgh (PA); City of Portsmouth (VA); City of Richmond (VA); City of San Francisco (CA); City and County of San Francisco (CA); County of Santa Fe (NM);

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND ACADEMICS

Leroy D. Baca, Sheriff, County of Los Angeles (CA); Donna M. Bishop, Northeastern University (MA); Susan J. Carstens, Psy.D., L.P. Juvenile Specialist, Crystal Police Dept. (MN); The Honorable Toni Harp, Connecticut State Senator; The Honorable Alice L. Bordsen, North Carolina State Representative; Jolanta Juskiewicz, Ph.D., American University (D.C.); The Honorable Kelvin Roldán, Connecticut State Representative; Tony Roshan Samara, George Mason Univer-

sity (VA); Earle Williams, Psy.D. Hampton University, (VA); Aaron Kupchik, Ph.D., University of Delaware.

TRIBUTE TO NICK RENKOSKI

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Nick Renkoski for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Nick Renkoski is the Director of Marketing and Communications at the Des Moines Metro Opera. In this role, Nick utilizes his love of the arts and his talents of writing, directing, and acting to develop innovative ways to draw in new audiences to the opera and challenge preconceived notions. His video series, We Live Opera, has received attention from opera companies across the country for doing just that. Both in and out of the opera, Renkoski has contributed to the crucial role the arts have played in the city's revitalization efforts through his involvement as a committee member of the Des Moines Art Center's Gala and Fashion Week and his performances in several Des Moines Social Club productions. Originally a Des Moines native and a graduate of the University of Missouri, Nick now resides in downtown Des Moines with his wife Liz, who is a member of the 2012 Forty Under 40 class. In all aspects of his life, Nick is an example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Nick in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Renkoski for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Nick on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK APRIL 1-7
2013

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, since 1995 the first full week of April was declared National Public Health Week (NPHW) to recognize the

contributions of public health and to highlight issues that are important to improving it. Public health improves the conditions and behaviors that affect the health of each and every one of us. Public health ensures that we have safe, healthy communities. This is why I hope that all Americans will join me in observing National Public Health Week April 1-7, 2013.

This year's National Public Health Week theme is "Public Health is ROI: Save Lives, Save money." It highlights the value of prevention and the importance of well-supported public health systems in preventing disease, saving lives and curbing health care spending. Much like the business world, ROI indicates the return on investments. Investing just \$10 per person each year in proven community-based public health efforts could save the Nation more than 16 billion within five years. That's a \$5.60 return for every \$1 invested. America spends more than twice what most other industrialized nations spend on health care and we still have poor health outcomes. A major reason for this startling fact is that we spend only 3 percent of our health care dollars on preventing diseases as opposed to treating them, when 75 percent of our health care costs are related to preventable conditions.

I was a proud sponsor of the health care reform law which was enacted on March 23, 2010. I feel passionate about uninsured Americans who suffer from chronic conditions such as heart disease and diabetes. The Affordable Care Act, as it is commonly called, ensures that more Americans than ever before will have insurance coverage for mounting medical expenses. Also included in this bill is the creation of the Prevention and Public Health Fund, a new mandatory fund for prevention and public health. The Fund is intended to provide a stable and increased investment in activities that will enable communities to stay healthy in the first place.

Thanks to the great work of the American Public Health Association (APHA) which serves as the organizer of National Public Health Week and the efforts of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, great strides have been made to raise awareness about public health and prevention.

However, our work is far from done. In Congress, I will continue to support reliable funding of public health and stand-up for the Prevention and Public Health Fund which helps to provide funding for community-based prevention activities and programs that reduce deaths due to preventable causes. Our current and future generations must not be deprived of the opportunity to live long, healthy lives. Working together, I am optimistic that we can achieve this outcome.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "PREPARE
ALL KIDS ACT" OF 2013

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce the "Prepare All Kids Act," which would assist states in providing at least one year of high quality, full-day pre-kindergarten education to all children, specifically targeting children from low-income families.

Introduced in the Senate by my colleague on the Joint Economic Committee, Sen. CASEY of Pennsylvania, I am happy to be introducing this House companion bill along with my colleague Rep. ALLYSON SCHWARTZ.

Children are our nation's greatest resource and providing them with high-quality early education is a critical step in ensuring that they are put on a path to success from an early age. The "Prepare All Kids Act" is not only the right thing to do for our children; it's a wise investment in our future. Long-term scientific research has proven the benefits of investing in early childhood education. Children who attend high-quality prekindergarten are often more successful in school, more productive adults, and greater contributors to our economy and society.

That is why President Obama expressed support for pre-kindergarten education for all children during his State of the Union speech and why I am introducing this bill now. I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

RECOGNIZING MARCH AS RED CROSS MONTH

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Red Cross and the amazing work they do in my Congressional District, across North Carolina, and around the country and to highlight that the month of March is Red Cross Month.

My Congressional District is served by eight local Red Cross chapters including the Greater Albemarle Chapter in Elizabeth City; Frederick E. Turnage Chapter in Rocky Mount; Wayne County Chapter in Goldsboro; Lenoir County Chapter in Kinston; Greater Pamlico Chapter in Washington; Pitt County Chapter in Greenville; Triangle Chapter in Raleigh; and the Central NC Chapter in Durham.

At a moment's notice, these local chapters can deploy staff and volunteers to respond to a crisis situation. Many across North Carolina and the east coast remember the devastation of Hurricane Floyd in 1999 that killed nearly 60 people. When the destructive tornadoes in April 2011 leveled some 450 homes across Halifax, Northampton, and Wilson Counties; and most recently, when Super Storm Sandy ravaged the east coast and destroyed homes and businesses along the North Carolina coast and inland, the Red Cross responded in each instance.

Mr. Speaker, the American Red Cross plays a vital role in disaster response and their contribution to helping Americans recover from life-changing events cannot be overstated. I ask my colleagues to join with me in thanking the American Red Cross for their tireless work on behalf of all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN RUAN IV

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize John Ruan IV for

being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

John Ruan IV is the Vice President of Financial Institutions at Bankers Trust Company, where he is responsible for a loan portfolio of more than \$90 million in assets. A Des Moines native, John worked in Chicago from 2002 to 2007 after receiving his law degree from the University of Iowa. As his family life grew however, he knew Iowa was where he wanted to be. Today, John carries on the family tradition of hard work and selfless service through his involvement in numerous civic organizations. Mr. Ruan is board member of several Des Moines area organizations, including the Des Moines Symphony, Junior Achievement of Central Iowa, and the Riverfront YMCA. John is also a member of the Blank Park Zoo Capital Campaign committee and serves on the legislative committee of the Iowa Bankers Association. Among John's numerous responsibilities, his top priority remains being the best husband and father he can be to his wife Alison and their three children. In all facets of his life, Mr. Ruan continues to make his state proud while extending and expanding his family's tremendous legacy.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like John in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Ruan for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating John on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

INTRODUCING THE STUDENT LOAN FAIRNESS ACT TO COMBAT STU- DENT DEBT

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Student Loan Fairness Act to address the crippling issue of student loan debt and the debilitating impact that this debt is having on American students and their ability to contribute to the growth of the United States economy.

As you may know, total outstanding student loan debt in America has surpassed the \$1 trillion mark. It has outpaced credit card debt, auto debt, and is second only to mortgage debt in America. In fact, a recent study shows that student loan debt is the only type of consumer debt in America that has actually increased during the "Great Recession" and the

problem only continues to worsen. As a result of these debts, millions of Americans are not buying cars, purchasing homes, starting businesses, or otherwise realizing the American Dream.

We need a fair and simple federal student loan repayment system which seeks to alleviate the financial burden of student loan debt on college graduates and support them as they begin their careers and lives.

That is why I rise today to introduce the Student Loan Fairness Act. This new legislation combines two bills from the 112th Congress: Rep. Hansen Clarke's Student Loan Forgiveness Act (H.R. 4170), as well as my own Graduate Success Act (H.R. 5895).

The Student Loan Fairness Act creates a new "10-10" standard for student loan repayment and establishes it as the new standard repayment plan for students taking out federal loans. This bill also combats the crushing interest rates of public and private loans, sends a lifeline to student borrowers who have fallen on difficult times, and promotes financial responsibility in higher education. In addition, our bill permanently caps the interest rate for all federal student loans at 3.4%, which will ultimately eliminate the need to enact temporary measures every year to prevent rates from doubling. This gives students more certainty and the comfort of knowing their interest rates will not go up every year.

Congress needs to act now to help our students. The longer we wait to take action, the more we undermine their future and prevent students from becoming the people they dream of being and the workforce our economy needs.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FINANCIAL COMPETITIVE ACT OF 2013

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss my bill, the Financial Competitive Act of 2013. My legislation simply requires the Financial Stability Oversight Committee to conduct a study of the impact of implementation of the Credit Valuation Adjustment (CVA) capital requirement on U.S. consumers, end users, and U.S. financial institutions.

European Basel III rules are being finalized and would provide a significant exemption from CVA market risk Risk-Weighted Assets (RWA) for EU banks.

EU banks would be exempt from CVA RWA requirements for transactions with sovereign pension funds and corporate counterparties, which are also exempt from clearing obligations. It is interesting to note that the EU did there due diligence and determined the risk factors merited an exemption.

My legislation is simply asking for due diligence in determining if U.S. financial institutions will be competitively disadvantaged. To me, this exemption will provide a significant advantage to European banks, European customers, and European end users.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. economy is in a fragile state, any hurdle, fee, or foreign advantage, will cost the U.S. economy valuable jobs. This decision by the European regulators disregards the Basel III international agreement

and will have lasting consequences for U.S. and international markets. U.S. financial institutions will be competitively disadvantaged that will affect how these institutions serve consumers in the derivative business as well as the commercial loan business.

Further, end-users will see a significant impact through limited competition which affects pricing and services.

My legislation will clarify the impact Basel III CVA RWA exemption for EU financial institutions will have on the U.S. economy. We can't afford to wait while Europe takes valuable market share away from U.S. companies.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House (and Senate) to support me in passing the Financial Competitive Act of 2013 in order to ensure the law of unintended consequences doesn't place and U.S. consumers, end users, and financial institutions are not put at a disadvantage.

HONORING MIKE JACKSON

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mike Jackson, a distinguished wrestling coach from Ozark High School, who was recently inducted into the Missouri Wrestling Association Hall of Fame.

Mike established Ozark's wrestling program and coached there for 26 years before he retired in 2012. During the course of his tenure, Mike amassed an impressive 210–59 record, including 10 conference championships and eight district titles. His teams produced 157 state qualifiers and 49 state medalists.

Mike developed such a strong program because he instilled in his wrestlers a strong sense of character on the mat, in the classroom, and in the community. He prided himself on these qualities. During his final year of coaching, for example, he and his squad raised \$2,500 for breast cancer awareness.

The Ozark community is lucky to have had a coach, teacher, and mentor like Mike Jackson, and I am proud to recognize his accomplishments and induction into the Missouri Wrestling Hall of Fame.

TRIBUTE TO RACHEL ROWLEY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Rachel Rowley for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

Since 2000, *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their cho-

sen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Rachel Rowley is a partner at the BrownWinick law firm where she practices litigation and transactional work. Before attaining her law degree from the University of Denver in Colorado, Rachel received her bachelor's degree in music education from Iowa State University. She still utilizes her passion for music through serving on the board of trustees for the Des Moines Symphony, including the audit, fundraising, and education advisory committees. Ms. Rowley also has been a volunteer for the Make-A-Wish Foundation's art festival booth since 2010 and a member of the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute. Of course, Rachel's top priority is the care of her two children, Luke and Anna, who both attend the Bergman Academy in Des Moines, where Ms. Rowley serves as a board member and legal counsel. In all facets of her life, Rachel is an example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Rachel in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Ms. Rowley for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Rachel on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at *Business Record* for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

IN SUPPORT OF CATCHING UP TO 1968 ACT OF 2013

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, these statements and findings are made in support of the "Catching Up to 1968 Act of 2013."

In determining that it is time to raise the minimum wage to \$10.50 per hour and index it to inflation, Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Since 1968, the minimum wage has lost nearly one-third of its value. Had it kept pace with inflation since then, the federal minimum wage would be \$10.67 today.

(2) Given that the minimum wage has not kept pace with inflation, more than thirty million low-wage workers are making less today than low-wage workers did 45 years ago in 1968.

(3) As the cost of living increased in the past several decades, the reduced purchasing power of the minimum wage has made it more difficult for low-wage workers to pay for basic necessities such as housing, transportation, food, and healthcare.

(I) Housing prices have nearly doubled; the median value of owner-occupied properties has increased by about 80 percent between 1970 and 2009.

(II) The cost of a gallon of motor vehicle gasoline has increased more than 60 percent from 1978 to 2012 according to U.S. Energy Information data.

(III) The average cost of health insurance premiums has skyrocketed. According to U.S. Census figures, from 1990 to 2009, health in-

surance costs per capita have more than doubled, increasing 102 percent. The average annual cost of employer-sponsored family health insurance premiums increased 89 percent from 1999 to 2011. Workers bore more of that load, with the average worker contribution toward employer-sponsored health insurance increasing by 94 percent. On top of this, an increasing number of medical expenses and services are not paid for by health insurance, resulting in dramatically increasing out-of-pocket expenses—27 percent from 1996 to 2009—for families.

(IV) Since just 1994, the average cost for a family of four to provide food for the family has increased about 10 percent, according to figures from the USDA's monthly estimates of food plans.

(4) The current federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, \$15,080 annually, does not even meet the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty threshold for a family of two or the Department of Health and Human Service's poverty guidelines for a family of two, both of which are above \$15,000 per year.

(5) Worker productivity has more than doubled since the 1960s, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics' data, yet all that low-wage workers have received for their effort is the declining value of the minimum wage.

(6) The failure of Congress to make sure that the minimum wage keeps pace with inflation has exacerbated income inequality in this country and placed the American Dream out of reach for many hard-working low-wage workers in this country. At the same time that the minimum wage has lost nearly one-third of its value, the average income of the top 1 percent of taxpayers has skyrocketed. The threshold for a family's annual income to be considered in the top 1 percent of taxpayers increased from about \$75,000 in 1968 to over \$1 million in 2011. Adjusting for inflation, the annual income of the top one percent has more than doubled in that time, increasing 110 percent. Just before the recent financial crisis, the incomes of the top one percent had nearly tripled from 1968 to 2007, increasing by 196 percent.

(7) The top 100 highest paid CEOs all made over \$15 million last year. The highest paid CEO made over \$131 million in 2012, the equivalent of almost \$63,000 per hour—\$10,000 more than the median annual household income in the United States.

(8) Though the United States economy has begun to recover from the recent financial crisis, the unemployment rate is still 7.7 percent and there still remain 28.6 million unemployed or underemployed. Raising the minimum wage would help stimulate the economy and create jobs.

(I) Raising the minimum wage to \$10.50 per hour would give a raise to more than 30 million workers, add a net increase of over \$30 billion in economic activity, and create more than 140,000 new jobs.

(II) According to a Chicago Federal Reserve study, for every dollar increase to the hourly pay of a minimum wage worker, the result is \$2,800 in new spending from that worker's household over the year.

(9) Two-thirds of low-wage workers are employed by large, profitable corporations.

(10) Many large, multi-national corporations pay higher minimum wages in Canada and Europe, and still remain profitable.

(11) Without raising the minimum wage and indexing it to inflation, it becomes more likely

that low-wage workers will fall further into poverty and be more reliant on government services like food stamps, Medicaid, welfare, and the earned income tax credit. These government services are paid for by the taxpayers and other small businesses. In this sense, many small businesses that already pay their employees more than the federal minimum wage end up subsidizing the profitability of their large corporate competitors. This is a perversion of capitalism. Raising the minimum wage would not put small businesses like this at a competitive disadvantage, but could in fact help them. For instance, according to the MO Healthnet Employer Report, in Missouri during the first quarter of 2011 (the most recent data) the total cost to the state of the 50 employers whose employees rely most heavily on Medicaid was about \$43.5 million. According to data from the state Department of Job and Family Services, the State of Ohio paid \$111.5 million in 2007 for Medicaid costs for workers and their dependents at 50 employers statewide.

(12) Nearly two-thirds of minimum wage workers are women. A greater proportion of minimum wage workers are black (15 percent) or Hispanic (20.2 percent) than of the population as a whole (13.1 percent black, and 16.7 percent Hispanic).

(13) The United States has one of the lowest minimum wages when compared with other Western, industrialized countries. Australia's minimum wage is more than double the minimum wage in the United States—at about \$16 per hour. Of ten countries with minimum wages higher than the United States', eight of them have unemployment rates lower than ours, based on the most recent data available.

(14) Poll after poll has shown that about 70 percent of the American public supports increasing the minimum wage.

HONORING NEWBRIDGE SERVICES

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor NewBridge Services in Pompton Plains, Morris County, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2013.

In the latter portion of 1962, local ministers were taken aback by the exponential increase in counseling requests within the Pequannock Valley area. This prompted a group of concerned citizens to meet and discuss mental health needs of the people in their surrounding areas. From this meeting the Northeast Morris County Guidance Center was founded under Reverend Donner B. Atwood of the First Reformed Church of Pompton Plains. The name of the facility was soon changed to the Pequannock Valley Mental Health Center, which began serving on December 23rd, 1963. This center was initially intended to carry out mental health services for adults and children in Butler, Kinnelon, Lincoln Park, Montville, Pequannock, and Riverdale. Rapid growth over the next decade extended the programs to the areas of Boonton, Boonton Township, East Hanover, and Mountain Lakes.

In 1977, due to the addition of several new programs, the Health Center nearly tripled in

size. These new programs included the Transitional Care Program, which was able to provide the Day Treatment Center with full time help for psychiatric emergencies, boarding home services, and counseling for at-risk clients. The Youth Services Bureau was also created to meet the ever-growing mental health needs of adolescents in the servicing towns.

In 1980, the Outreach Program, designed to help additional at-risk clients, was established alongside Project 70001, and the Youth Employment Program, intended to help troubled children and adults obtain jobs. Moreover, in 1986 the center expanded further by adding the Project Families Youth-In-Touch program and the Adolescent Partial Care program in 1987, aimed at helping troubled members of young society become more aware of their problems in order to overcome them. Finally, in June of 1998 the name of center was changed to NewBridge, effectively becoming responsible for almost all public mental health service in the upper portion of Passaic County.

NewBridge's goal has always been to provide children, individuals and families with substance abuse treatment and outpatient counseling. They also seek to empower the children, parents, teachers, and communities they serve to coordinate their own efforts in assisting those who are struggling with substance abuse and mental health issues. NewBridge is able to continually be effective through its 175 trained professionals that serve throughout the 16 municipalities in Morris and Passaic Counties. These professionals include adolescent and clinical nurse specialists, addiction and domestic violence professionals, care managers, and therapists concentrated in marriage and family problems. NewBridge also employs highly trained nutritionists, psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers.

By means of services, facilities, and employees dedicated to consistently helping members of the community, NewBridge has impacted the Morris and Passaic areas through state-of-the-art constructive methods of support and personal education. Children and adults can now receive the proper care and advice they deserve. This assistance has made these 16 municipalities happier and healthier places to live.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and your colleagues to join me in congratulating NewBridge Services as it celebrates its 50th Anniversary.

HONORING THE GREEK ORTHODOX YOUTH OF AMERICA OF ST. GEORGE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. VAN. HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the Greek Orthodox Youth of America, GOYA, of St. George in Bethesda, Maryland for their outstanding accomplishment in the GOYA tournament that was held in Baltimore, Maryland this past weekend.

Both the young men and women of the youth group won their respective championships in hard-fought games teeming with

sportsmanship and Christian fellowship. In spirited competition, these young men and women represented their community with pride. Although both teams—trailed in their semi-final and championship games, every player battled back with heart and outstanding sportsmanship and won not only the competition but the respect of their fellow teammates and their opponents.

I am proud of the St. George GOYA and look forward to their continued leadership in serving our community, excelling on the basketball court, and working hard in their academic, personal and spiritual pursuits.

HONORING THE ONE CAMPUS CHAPTER AT UTEP

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the ONE Campus chapter at the University of Texas at El Paso, UTEP.

This spirited group of college students competed in the ONE Campus' Valentine's Day challenge, which encouraged students across the country to write to their elected representatives urging them to support international poverty-fighting programs.

ONE Campus is under the ONE organization umbrella. With 300 million members around the world, this organization was founded to combat extreme poverty and preventable diseases.

The UTEP chapter won the "To Washington With Love" challenge after collecting more than 120 handwritten letters and over 500 petition signatures and new member signups. Those messages were personally delivered to my office where my office and I got the message loud and clear about the importance of preserving these lifesaving programs.

I could not be more proud of these students. Go Miners for winning the challenge and taking such an active role in the democratic process!

TRIBUTE TO KEEGAN KAUTZKY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Keegan Kautzky for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Keegan Kautzky serves as the Director of National Education Programs of the World

Food Prize Foundation, where he continues to fulfill the world-changing vision of famed agronomist Dr. Norman Borlaug. In this role, Mr. Kautzky establishes programs for high school and college students that provide insights into poverty and hunger across the globe. He has led the foundation's national expansion by attracting more than \$3 million in investments and matching funds for critical training programs for high school students and teachers. Keegan also has advised the National Council on Agricultural Education and the National FFA Organization in developing the first global strategy for agricultural education in the United States. Outside of work, Keegan is the founder and chairman of the student-run charity, Pages of Promise, which collects reading materials throughout the country and provides them to those in sub-Saharan Africa. In all facets of his life, Keegan is testament to Dr. Borlaug's legacy by actively changing the world for the better through his time, talents, and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Keegan in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Kautzky for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Keegan on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING TURKEY TO RESPECT THE RIGHTS AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, Today, I am introducing, with my colleague Congressman GUS BILIRAKIS, legislation urging Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

In 1993, the European Union defined the membership criteria for accession to the European Union at the Copenhagen European Council, obligating candidate countries to have achieved certain levels of reform, including stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, and respect for and protection of minorities. Since accession negotiations with the EU began in 2005, Turkey has failed to recognize the Ecumenical Patriarchate's international status as the spiritual home of the world's oldest and second largest Christian Church that includes more than 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide.

Moreover, the Government of Turkey has limited the candidates available to the Holy Synod of the Greek Orthodox Church for selection as the Ecumenical Patriarchate to Turkish nationals and reneged on its agreement to reopen the Theological School at Halki, thus impeding training for the Orthodox clergy in that country.

This resolution calls on Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecu-

menical Patriarchate by granting it the right to train clergy of all nationalities, not just Turkish nationals, and respecting the human rights and property rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Additionally, the resolution encourages Turkey to continue the processes and programs to modernize and democratize its own society and prove that it is ready to meet the criteria set forth by the Copenhagen European Council prior to its accession into the EU.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE THE FRY SCHOLARSHIP

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to improve the Marine Gunnery Sgt. John David Fry Scholarship.

Since 9/11, over 6,500 of our brave men and women in uniform have given their lives to protect our freedom. That number is tragic enough. But left behind by many of these soldiers is a family: wives, husbands, sons, and daughters. I think we all agree that we should do everything we can to help these families after their loved one makes the ultimate sacrifice.

My wife, Beverly, and I have come to know many of these families. We have visited with them at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. We have been to the funerals. It especially breaks our hearts to think about the children.

In 2009 the Fry Scholarship signed into law as a part of the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2009 (P.L. 111–32). The clear purpose of this measure was to promise Post-9/11 GI Bill educational benefits to the children of soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Unfortunately, due to a technicality in the law that restricts eligibility to the child of a soldier who “dies in line of duty while serving on active duty,” some children of fallen soldiers have not been able to qualify for the scholarship.

During the early days of the War Against Terror, many active duty service members who suffered mortal injuries were medically retired to veteran status on the battlefield. The Department of Veterans' Affairs has informed me that despite the intent of the law, the children of these soldiers are technically ineligible for the scholarship.

The definition under current law is confusing for families and even for the VA. I have been made aware of instances where a child was able to receive scholarship money, and then was later asked by the VA to pay those benefits back.

My legislation clarifies that the children of a soldier who dies “as a result of a service-connected disability” is eligible for the Fry Scholarship.

This is a small change in the law that could make a big difference for the children we will help go to college. It is my hope that we can work together on this issue to get this fix signed into law.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DELAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote number 79 on Ordering the Previous Question regarding the “Providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 25) Congressional Budget, 2014; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 115) providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House Representatives in the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress; and for other purposes” (H. Res 122). Had I been present, I would have voted “no”.

I missed rollcall vote number 80 on Agreeing to the Resolution regarding the “Providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 25) Congressional Budget, 2014; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 115) providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House Representatives in the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress; and for other purposes” (H. Res 122). Had I been present, I would have voted “no”.

I missed rollcall vote number 81 regarding the Journal. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes”.

I missed rollcall vote number 82 regarding the “Providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress” (H. Res. 115). Had I been present, I would have voted “no”.

COMMEMORATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women's History Month. This celebration is so important because it provides us with an opportunity to recall the many ways in which women have shaped our Nation's history. It provides a time to reflect on their fight to achieve equality but also the work that remains to ensure that we are a society where our daughters have the same opportunities as our sons. During this month, I can't help but to be reminded of the countless women who have had an indelible impact on our Nation's history.

My home state of Florida was the beneficiary of the tireless work of one such woman, Marjory Stoneman Douglas. A writer, journalist, environmentalist, and feminist, Ms. Douglas lived a life of purpose and resolve until she died at the age of one-hundred and eight.

Among her many worthy endeavors, was her tireless advocacy for the Everglades. With her seminal work, *The Everglades: River of Grass*, Ms. Douglas transformed the public's perception of the Everglades from that of an inhabitable swamp, to a vital facet of South Florida's ecosystem and a true national treasure.

Her work as an advocate for the less fortunate and for the Everglades continues to reverberate throughout Florida and the nation.

It is women like Ms. Douglas who make the United States what it is today. Their commitment to their communities and to their country continues to bring our Nation closer to realizing the ideals on which it was founded.

Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate the women who have shaped our history, I remind my colleagues that while the month of March may come to an end, the fight for equality continues for our daughters, sisters, and mothers.

TRIBUTE TO ZACHARIAH JOHN
McDOWELL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Urbandale police officer Zachariah McDowell for his lifesaving efforts in the line of duty.

On Sunday evening, March 10th, 2013, Officer McDowell was on a routine patrol of Urbandale, Iowa when he responded to a report of a burning car in the parking lot of a nearby church. As Zac approached the car to investigate, he could make out only a human hand amid the consuming smoke that filled the vehicle. Officer McDowell wasted no time smashing in the passenger side window with his metal baton, entering the burning vehicle, and dragging the young accident victim to safety. There is no doubt that Officer McDowell's quick thinking and heroic actions saved a young man's life that snowy night.

Officer McDowell's entire professional life has been one of service and sacrifice. He began his law enforcement career by serving in the Iowa Army National Guard where he was recognized as the Iowa Soldier of the Year in 2006. Officer McDowell was honorably discharged from the military as a Staff Sergeant in 2011, after 12 years of service and two separate deployments to Kosovo in 2003 and Iraq in 2007. Today, Zac is a model member of the Urbandale Police Department and resides in Urbandale with his wife of seven years, Nichole, and their two children, Wesley and Maggie.

Mr. Speaker, Officer McDowell's instinct and brave actions to save a fellow Iowan embody the selfless attributes we all should strive for. His extraordinary display of heroism should give us all pause as we offer gratitude to the police officers across the country who put their own welfare at risk to make our streets and neighborhoods safer. It is a great honor to represent Officer McDowell and the City of Urbandale in the United States Congress, and I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating and thanking Officer McDowell for his outstanding performance and courage when it truly mattered most.

MARKING 192 YEARS OF GREEK
INDEPENDENCE

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 192nd anniversary of Greek

independence. I am proud to join the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues in saluting the Greek people for their valiant struggle in winning independence for their nation 192 years ago and in re-affirming the bonds between our two great nations and people.

On March 25, we mark the anniversary of the revolution that liberated Greece from the Ottoman Empire. As we do so, we honor the struggle and perseverance of those Greeks who believed in their right to govern themselves and willingly laid their lives on the line as they fought for democracy. The proud democratic traditions and philosophies of Ancient Greek civilization have served as a light of inspiration to many people and nations throughout history, including our own nation's founders.

For centuries, America and Greece have built an enduring partnership based on shared values. The countless contributions of the Greek people, both to their own country and as immigrants to the United States, and in my home state of New York, continue to leave an indelible mark on our two nations.

As with our own Independence Day, this anniversary of the birth of modern Greece reminds us of the sacrifices made by those who risk—and sometimes lose—everything in pursuit of the ideals and ways of life they hold most dear.

Today, in solidarity with Greece, we reaffirm those values and ideals and honor our freedom, democracy, and friendship with the Greek people.

INTRODUCING THE MARCH FOR
MILITARY WOMEN ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Military Access to Reproductive Care and Health, MARCH, for Military Women Act, legislation that will help our servicewomen gain the same access to reproductive health services as all other American women. It is deeply unfair that women who put their lives on the line for this country are denied the rights of the Constitution that they honorably defend.

Recent changes in policy have brought the treatment of military women more in line with the rest of women in America by allowing insurance coverage of abortion in the case of rape or incest. However, servicewomen are still not permitted to pay privately—using their own personal funds—for an abortion under any other circumstances. This policy is discriminatory, denying women in the military a Constitutionally protected right. Furthermore, it endangers the health of our servicewomen, who depend on their base hospitals for medical care, especially in countries where local facilities are inadequate or unavailable. More than 200,000 women (active service members, spouses, and dependents of military personnel) live on military bases overseas and rely on military hospitals for their health care.

Prohibiting access to abortions on military bases means that servicewomen may be forced to rely on unsafe local facilities. Failing that, a servicewoman would need to request permission from her supervisor to leave her

combat mission and return to the United States. This impairs the readiness of our forces who are quite literally on the front lines, and it should not be allowed to continue. Our servicewomen deserve the right to determine their own destiny, without risking their health unnecessarily.

I want to be clear that if this bill became law, no taxpayer dollars would be spent for abortion care at overseas military facilities, and the military's current "conscience clauses" would remain intact so that no doctor would be forced to provide abortion care against their will. Passage of this bill would simply mean that our military women have the same rights as all other American women when it comes to reproductive health services. It is an issue of equality and fairness.

Our servicewomen deserve to be treated as full equals, and to have the same access to safe reproductive health care as any other American woman. I urge my colleagues to stand with me and support the MARCH for Military Women Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 55 I missed the vote due to an illness. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

KEN SIMPSON—A NORTH
CAROLINA AND AMERICAN HERO

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, if somehow America could combine in one human being all the qualities we admire in our fighting men—bravery, strength, skill, determination, loyalty, patriotism, and compassion for his fellow soldier—since the middle of the 20th century—its name would have been Kenneth Walton Simpson of North Carolina.

The list of men and women to whom America owes a debt of gratitude is long indeed, and prominent on that list is Kenneth Simpson.

This is a small expression of that gratitude to this honest-to-goodness American fighting man who, now an octogenarian, spent 23 years serving this country as a soldier, who performed his duties gallantly and with remarkable heroism, then retired without the array of military decorations that perhaps should have adorned the last uniform he wore.

The essence of this fighting man has been captured in a new book, *Warrior: From Grenades to Greeting Cards, the True Story of an American Fighting Man*, by North Carolina author Wilt Browning. Wilt is my constituent and friend and a noted journalist and author.

Simpson's story is the stuff of heroism, American style. It is as though he was from childhood destined to be a fighting man, and in his post-military career his fighting spirit remarkably wound up shaping an American industry in the second half of the century.

Ken once was perhaps the youngest American fighting man since the Civil War. At the age of just 14, he talked his way into the fight when World War II was raging. When the Navy found out that this seaman assigned to the destroyer escort USS *Edwin A. Howard* was far younger than he had claimed, they put him ashore in the Philippines. He spent two months hitch-hiking his way back to North Carolina in something of a Huckleberry Finn odyssey. He still calls that journey the greatest adventure of his life. "What young boy wouldn't love an adventure like that?" he still asks today, puzzled that most of us would find such a challenge daunting indeed.

Ken wasn't about to let a little thing like age keep him from serving his country, and when he turned 18 he legally signed on once again, this time in the Army. His fighting days had only just begun. He rose through the ranks as an enlisted man and then an officer, a man's man in charge of men. It was during the Korean Conflict that the rare commitment and courage of this man was most remarkable. Again and again, he led his men into battle and never lost a one though he on several occasions personally braved enemy fire to return to the battlefield to rescue wounded fallen comrades. Once wounded himself, he was ordered by doctors to recuperate far from the sounds of battle. He refused to leave his men, and returned to the front lines once again and to more battles.

To this day, Ken carries in his aging body the shrapnel from twice having been blown up by grenades, and he bears the scars that testify to the fact that he has faced and survived many battles.

He served our country for all those years as a military man, and then he served his fellow Americans as something of a rogue in the greeting card industry. And he did that so well that his efforts saved two major national companies from disappearing prematurely at the hands of corporate raiders and kept hundreds of Americans at work for years in the greeting card industry.

Simpson lives a quiet life now in a home atop Walker Bald, a tall mountain in western North Carolina, which he shares with his wife Laura. Though his steps have slowed and his hearing is no longer as keen as it once was—despite the concussions of nearby exploding grenades of the past—he remains the epitome of an American fighting man.

And America owes Kenneth Walton Simpson and fighting men such as him our sincere appreciation. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, I am proud to bring his story to light through this statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and to highlight Wilt Browning's outstanding book about an outstanding North Carolina and American hero.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER SOMA

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jennifer Soma for being named a 2013 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

Since 2000, *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2013 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Jennifer Soma oversees product development and new initiatives in the individual disability insurance business for Principal Financial Group Inc. In this role, Jennifer serves as a liaison between the operations, quality assurance and information technology facets of the business. Outside of the office, Jennifer spends nearly 30 hours a week in various volunteer roles to make her community better. One of Ms. Soma's biggest passions is her dedication to animal welfare. Before working for Principal, Jennifer worked for the Animal Rescue League of Iowa in numerous roles including major rescue efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and Iowa flooding. Ms. Soma certainly takes her causes home with her as she shares her Ankeny home with her four senior rescue dogs and continues to advocate for animals through her efforts at Iowa Voters for Companion Animals/Iowa Friends of Companion Animals. Also a big supporter and alumnus of Drake University, Jennifer currently chairs Drake's Graduate Student Advisory Council. Last year, Jennifer's numerous volunteer efforts earned her the recognition of the U.S. Presidential Volunteer Service Award—Gold Level for volunteering more than 1,000 hours of her time. In all facets of her life, Jennifer is an example of hard work and service that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Jennifer in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Ms. Soma for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jennifer on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at *Business Record* for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING THE INTERNATIONAL CENTENNIAL PLANNING CONFERENCE PREPARING FOR THE ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR I

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to welcome and acknowledge our national and international visitors to the International Centennial Planning Conference. The conference is being hosted by the National World War I Museum, located in Missouri's Fifth District, on March 22–24, 2013. With the recent enactment of Public Law 112–272 to establish a World War I Centennial Commission, it is vital that the exchange with our historical counterparts begin.

This was the first global war, declared on July 28, 1914, after the assassination of Arch-

duke Franz Ferdinand. The United States entered the war in 1917 and concluded with the signing of the Armistice on November 11, 1918. The world would never be the same as the ramifications changed nations, warfare and technology. The reality of war comes with the understanding of its effects, not only geographically but on the military and all of the people who endured the suffering of war.

Representatives and scholars from the allied nations of Australia, France, Canada, Germany, United Kingdom, and Belgium will join representatives from the United States to exchange ideas on international planning for the Centennial. This workshop will foster coordination of commemorating these historical events and rediscovery of our combined involvement in World War I. The lessons of war will be discussed and viewed through an international prism to obtain a better understanding of how the "War to End All Wars" impacted and changed the course of history.

In Kansas City, we have progressed as a city under the flame of the Liberty Memorial. The Liberty Memorial stands as a testimonial to the past and a quest for our world living in peace. Since my time as Mayor of Kansas City, I have considered the Liberty Memorial and now the National World War I Museum a treasure worth fighting to protect and preserve.

As the World War I Centennial Commission's twelve members meet to plan for the commemorative events across our nation, it will do so under the flame of the Liberty Memorial and benefit from the work garnered from this planning conference.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues in the House join me in wishing the participants of the International Centennial Planning Conference success in their collaboration. There is a lot of work to do in honoring and commemorating the history from our first global war.

ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the anniversary of Greek Independence Day, in recognition of the courageous revolution that freed the people of Greece from the Ottoman Empire and established the modern Hellenic Republic. We come together to recognize Greek Independence in advance this year because the U.S. Congress will not be in session on March 25th.

There is no doubt that Greece's struggle for freedom from the Ottoman Empire is one which inspired the world. Carrying out a bold and inspired revolution, the people of Greece set an example for others in the region and globally. Their commitment to genuine self-determination made it possible for millions to determine their own future rather than continue a pattern of subjugation.

And, since establishing diplomatic relations with the United States, Greece has joined our own country in many cooperative endeavors, including during World War II in the fight against fascism. Today, the United States and Greece are not only partners in commerce,

but have forged international alliances in many areas, including business, tourism and international security.

Greece has also been a source of immigrant communities that have helped build the United States, and Greek-Americans proudly contribute to our society in the arts, sciences, business, politics and sports.

There can be no doubt that Greece faces tough times. The economic downturn has created difficult and ongoing challenges and hardships. Yet, the spirit of Greek Independence is alive and well in Greece and throughout the diaspora. I have no doubt that Greece is going to come back stronger than ever. I am proud to call Greece and the Greek people friends and allies, and the United States cherishes a continued friendship based on mutual values and trust.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, April 10th will mark the 34th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, legislation designed to “help maintain peace, security, and stability in the Western Pacific” and promote the “continuation of commercial, cultural, and other relations” between the American and Taiwanese people.

Since this legislation’s passage, Taiwan has become an economic powerhouse and a beacon of democracy in Southeast Asia. Taiwan is also a major consumer of American products—importing over \$267 million in goods from my home state of North Carolina in 2011. In addition to being our 9th largest trading partner, Taiwan is the largest per capita importer of U.S. farm products in the world.

I am therefore pleased that trade talks between the United States and Taiwan, as part of the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement, began recently after a six-year hiatus. My hope is that these discussions will bear fruit and help strengthen our vibrant commercial partnership with Taiwan.

For these reasons, and many others, it seems appropriate to mark this occasion and highlight my sincere hope that the American and Taiwanese people will continue to work together in friendship to promote shared prosperity and further our mutual interests.

HONORING MILDRED MANNING, ANGEL OF CORREGIDOR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the legacy of a great American woman, Mildred Manning, a World War II Veteran, POW, and nurse in the Army Nurse Corps. Ms. Manning was the last survivor of the 66 nurses who were taken into captivity by the Japanese in May of 1942 on the island of Corregidor.

Ms. Manning was born in rural Georgia on July 11, 1914. She graduated from the Grady

Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Atlanta and was head nurse at Grady before entering military service when she enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps in 1939.

Ms. Manning was stationed in the Philippines at the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. She spent the first five months of the war treating servicemen at field hospitals in the Philippines, most notably during the retreat to the Bataan Peninsula, and then on Corregidor. After the U.S. surrender at Corregidor, Ms. Manning was taken prisoner.

She spent the next 33 months under guard at an internment camp, where she faced near-starvation and disease while treating nearly 4,000 men, women, and children. In the winter of 1945, Ms. Manning and the other nurses were finally liberated. For her service to this Nation, Ms. Manning received a Bronze Star and a message of gratitude from President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Two weeks ago, on March 8, 2013, Ms. Manning passed away in Hopewell, NJ at the age of 98. She is survived by her son, James Manning, and daughter, March Price, five grandchildren and a great-grandson. Her husband, Arthur Brewster Manning, died in 1994 and their youngest son, William D. Manning, died in 2006.

Ms. Manning once said of her internment, “I came out so much better than many of my friends, I have never been bitter, and I have always known that if I could survive that, I could survive anything.”

Mr. Speaker, how privileged I am to be able to honor her life and pay tribute to her outstanding service to this nation.

HELPING HEROES FLY ACT

HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the “Helping Heroes Fly Act.”

I authored this legislation to authorize and improve the Transportation Security Administration’s, TSA, Wounded Warrior/Military Severely Injured Joint Support Operations Program, which facilitates and expedites the passenger screening process for severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

Customer service at airport checkpoints is an issue that evokes passionate reactions from constituents across the Nation. As a representative from Hawaii, one of the country’s foremost vacation destinations, I have a special interest in ensuring that the screening experience is as effective and smooth as possible. Unfortunately, too often, we hear stories from our constituents and visitors about time-consuming, inconvenient, and invasive TSA checkpoint searches. For wounded members of the Armed Forces and veterans, however, this ordeal can be a particularly difficult experience due to the nature of both their injuries and disabilities and TSA’s strict screening requirements.

Recognizing the need to improve customer service for all passengers, particularly those with a disability or hindering medical condition, TSA has, in recent years, established several alternative methods of screening, including TSA’s Wounded Warrior Screening Program.

Under the Wounded Warrior Screening Program, a severely injured or disabled service member, veteran, or family member contacts the program’s Operation Center at TSA before a flight to arrange expedited screening. An officer at the Operations Center then notifies the appropriate personnel at the involved airports to ensure that screening is conducted in such a way as to make the screening experience as simple as possible.

The establishment of the Wounded Warrior Screening Program is a positive step. However, through my work on the Committee on Homeland Security, I have spoken with advocates of members of the Armed Forces and veterans and have come to learn that the program could be improved. In particular, as implemented in the field, there is a lack of consistency that needs to be addressed. Some wounded warriors have reported a lack of sensitivity and respect for privacy during the screening experience. Certainly, active engagement with advocate organizations would improve the program and help ensure that it accomplishes its goal.

To improve the program, the “Helping Heroes Fly Act” requires:

TSA to develop a process to expedite screening for severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and veterans that protects the privacy of the individual being screened; requires TSA to consult with advocacy organizations to ensure that TSA is addressing the needs of wounded warriors to the best of their ability; mandates training of Transportation Security Officers on the expedited screening process protocols; requires TSA to maintain an operations center that severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and veterans can contact for assistance in advance of flying; and requires TSA to report to Congress on its progress in implementing the screening our Nation’s wounded warriors and veterans deserve.

Mr. Speaker, the “Helping Heroes Fly Act” is an important, bipartisan bill, crafted in consultation with advocacy organizations.

It comes in response to documented grievances associated with airport checkpoints and represents an important step we can take in acknowledging the service of our Nation’s heroes.

Just this week, we got reports of the difficulty a Marine at Phoenix’s Sky Harbor airport had during the screening process.

The “Helping Heroes Fly Act” will ensure TSA establishes the policies that will allow them to do so.

I urge my colleagues to support the “Helping Heroes Fly Act” so that we can ease the screening process for my fellow service members and show them the respect and honor they have earned.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of March as American Red Cross Month. For over 130 years the American Red

Cross has been helping people in need. Now is an excellent time to recognize not only the Red Cross, but each member of the community who contributes to this great organization through volunteering, giving blood, taking life saving classes or providing financial support.

The local Red Cross in Kansas City, Missouri, in my district, serves a population of more than 2.6 million people. Last year they financially assisted more than 1,000 families with local disasters such as home fires. The Kansas City Red Cross served the U.S. Military by providing 2,350 Services to the Armed Forces cases. More than 23,000 attended Red Cross community presentations, most of them being on how to prepare for disasters. Within the region, 38,372 people took Red Cross courses. Most of those were for CPR and first aid.

There are 70,000 disasters that the American Red Cross responds to each year in this country alone, ranging from home fires affecting one family to hurricanes affecting tens of thousands. This past year the Red Cross played a vital role in disaster relief during super storm Sandy, the Colorado Wildfires and Hurricane Isaac. It also released a series of free apps to aid in disaster preparedness, ranging from addressing tornado and hurricane threats to providing first aid advice and assistance in locating Red Cross Shelters.

An average of 150,000 military families and veterans receive assistance from the Red Cross annually. Support for wounded soldiers, resiliency training, linking military families during an emergency and connecting families with local community resources are a few of the ways the Red Cross assists the U.S. Military and its veterans.

Nearly 4 million people donate blood each year, providing more than 40% of America's blood supply, making the American Red Cross the single largest supplier of blood in the U.S. It is also the nation's leader in providing health and safety classes such as CPR, First Aid and Lifeguard training that more than 9 million American's participate in. Such education is vital in preparing citizens to help others in an emergency.

The American Red Cross provides a plethora of supportive programs for not only citizens of my district, and districts around this country, but also for people all over the world. International services provided by the Red Cross reach out to communities in over 80 developing countries. More than one billion children have been vaccinated thanks to the Measles and Rubella Initiative that was launched in 2001. Countless families torn apart by war or disaster from as far back as World War II have been reunited through the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Mr. Speaker, it is essential that this Congress pay tribute to the Red Cross and the millions of Americans who lend their efforts to its success. I urge my colleagues to stand with me in support of American Red Cross Month and honor all that this organization has done for our great country.

HONORING DR. THOMAS C. ROSENTHAL UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Dr. Thomas C. Rosenthal upon the occasion of his retirement from the University at Buffalo's Department of Family Medicine. As Chair of the department for twenty years, Dr. Rosenthal has made significant contributions to the field of public health in both academic research and patient practice, committed to improving the quality of health in the most underserved populations.

Beginning his career in rural medicine in 1978, Dr. Rosenthal's love of research led to his position at the University at Buffalo. Dr. Rosenthal's prolific research publications demonstrate his comprehensive expertise in his field. His published work spans from articles in chemistry journals to topics in primary care, such as cancer screening and Alzheimer's disease. He is board-certified in Family Medicine and Geriatrics, and holds membership on the esteemed Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education's Residency Review Committee for Family Medicine.

During his time at the University at Buffalo, Dr. Rosenthal has educated thousands of students, practitioners, and community members about public health. His passion for rural health motivated him to create the Buffalo Family Medicine residency program's Rural Health Campus in Olean, New York. Only the second such training model in the country, the Rural Health Campus allows students to gain firsthand knowledge of the unique healthcare needs of our nation's rural communities.

A trusted figure in his field, Dr. Rosenthal serves as the lead editor of the textbook Office Care Geriatrics, and as a reviewer for nine other journals. From 2006 to 2009, he edited The Journal of Rural Health. Throughout his illustrious career, he has sat on numerous national and statewide panels, including: the New York Rural Health Council, the Association of American Medical College Task Force on Rural Education, the New York State Academy of Family Physicians Education Committee, the policy board of the National Rural Health Association, and the Bioterrorism Task Force of the Medical Society of New York State.

Dr. Rosenthal pioneered an interdisciplinary approach to public health, combining real-world practice with academic study, dedicated to bettering the quality of health in underserved communities. His health services research, which includes rural health, medical training, health care organization and workforce development, informs his patient practice, and vice versa.

Dr. Rosenthal is known as much for compassionate practice as for his impressive academic career. He has drastically increased awareness of the dire public health crisis in medically underserved communities, and passionately strives to improve quality of health in the community's most suffering areas. He continues to see patients in the Jefferson Family Medicine Center, located in a poor neighborhood on Buffalo's East Side.

In 1998, Dr. Rosenthal became the Founding Director of the New York State Area

Health Education Center, AHEC, System. Today, he continues to serve as statewide Medical Director. This truly revolutionary organization strives towards Dr. Rosenthal's goal to improve access to quality health care in medically underserved communities on local, regional, and statewide levels, by encouraging both patients and practitioners to work together. The AHEC System joins with pre-existing institutions to bring dedicated healthcare professionals to communities in need, and educate community members about personal health care. By engaging devoted practitioners and empowering patients, the AHEC System has made enormous strides in combating our public health crisis.

Mr. Speaker, please join my colleagues and I in honoring Dr. Thomas C. Rosenthal as he retires from the University at Buffalo's Department of Family Medicine. I admire his compassionate and visionary approach to public health, and wish him Godspeed in all of his future endeavors.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 1278, THE NONDISPARAGEMENT OF NATIVE AMERICAN PERSONS OR PEOPLES IN TRADEMARK REGISTRATION ACT OF 2013

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEAGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. FALEOMAVEAGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues and with the American people a particular issue that has been a source of humiliation for our Native American people—the use of the word “red-skin,” which I will refer to as the “R-word.” This derogatory and racist term is rooted in state-sponsored genocide efforts when colonies paid individuals for the skins of dead Indians. The Native American community has never accepted the “R-word” as anything more than a hurtful, disparaging label that is a reminder of the maltreatment they have endured.

Some may argue that the “R-word” is no longer disparaging towards Native Americans. However, over the course of my tenure as a Congressman, as a member of the Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs, and as a member of the Congressional Native American Caucus, I have received an increasing flow of calls and letters from Native American individuals, tribes, and organizations who abhor this denigrating term. It is their opinion that the “R-word” is a racial stereotype that causes harm to the collective self-esteem of the American Indian people.

Mr. Speaker, this term has no place in our modern American society. It is akin to the “N-word” which reflects the history of prejudice and persecution that our African American brothers and sisters endured. Can you imagine the public outcry that would result if a Pro-Football team was named the “N-word?”

In 1933, the District of Columbia's professional football team adopted the “R-word” as its name and mascot. In 1967, the United States Patent and Trademark Office, PTO, granted the team a federally registered trademark for the “R-word.” This action is contrary to the mandates of the Trademark Act of 1946 (Lanham Act) which requires the PTO to

refuse to register any trademark that "[c]onsists of or comprises . . . matter which may disparage . . . persons, living or dead . . . or bring them into contempt, or disrepute." 15 U.S.C. 1502(a). The PTO has denied registration of trademarks using the "R-word" on four separate occasions on grounds of disparagement—three times in 1996 and once in 2002.

In 1992, seven prominent Native American leaders petitioned the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board, TTAB, to cancel the federal registrations over six trademarks using the "R-word." The TTAB in 1999 ruled that the "R-word" may, in fact, disparage American Indians, and cancelled the registrations. On appeal, a federal court reversed the TTAB's decision, holding that the petitioners waited too long after coming of age to file their petition. A new group of young Native Americans petitioned the TTAB to cancel the registrations of the offending trademarks in 2006. The TTAB held a hearing on March 7, 2013. A final decision is pending.

Mr. Speaker, despite the indigenous community's efforts before administrative agencies and the courts, the "R-word" remains protected as a federally registered trademark. Since the federal government made the mistake in registering the disparaging trademark, it is now up to Congress to correct that mistake. Now is the time to end this injustice.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced H.R. 1278, the "Non-Disparagement of Native American Persons or Peoples in Trademark Registration Act of 2013." I want to thank the following members for their support as original cosponsors of this historic legislation: TOM COLE (R-OK), BETTY MCCOLLUM (D-MN), ELKANOR HOLMES NORTON (D-DC), RAÚL GRIJALVA (D-AZ), KAREN BASS (D-CA), GWEN MOORE (D-WI), JOHN LEWIS (D-GA), MICHAEL HONDA (D-CA), and DONNA CHRISTENSEN (D-VI).

H.R. 1278 is also endorsed by the following organizations: National Congress of American Indians, NCAI, Morning Star Institute, International Indian Treaty Council, Native American Rights Fund, American Indian Movement—West, American Indian Higher Education Consortium, Americans for Indian Opportunity, Capitol Area Indian Resources, Inc., American Indian Studies—University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property—American University, Alianza Indígena Sin Fronteras (Indigenous Alliance Without Borders), National Indian Education Association, Native American Finance Officers Association, and Tulsa Indian Coalition Against Racism. These organizations have indicated in letters of support for H.R. 1278 that the "R-word" continues to have damaging effects in the Native American community.

H.R. 1278 would cancel existing federal registrations for trademarks using the "R-word." It would also deny registration for new trademarks incorporating the "R-word." As in the decision made by TTAB in 1999, it ruled, in fact, that the "R-word" was a disparaging term.

As an avid sports fan, I applaud the excellence in athleticism and leadership demonstrated by our professional athletes both on

and off the field. I am also very proud of the many Samoans and Pacific Islanders who have had much success in sports, particularly in the NFL. While I acknowledge the D.C. professional football team's many achievements, I have grave reservations concerning their name.

Mr. Speaker, I want to be clear that H.R. 1278 is not an attempt to censor or remove the freedom of the D.C. professional football team to use the "R-word" in its franchise. Rather, this legislation seeks to reinforce governing law that prohibits federal registration for disparaging terms, like the "R-word." It is unfortunate that the federal government, which has a special trust relationship with Native Americans, continues to protect this racial slur.

It is my hope that H.R. 1278 will advance the dialogue regarding the "R-word" among our legislators. I also invite those with a vested interest in this issue, including the owner of the D.C. professional football team, to bring their concerns to the table.

RECOGNIZING THE EMPLOYEES OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
CHILD CARE CENTER
WITH THE 2012 EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE AWARD

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the Chief Administrative Officer of the U.S. House of Representatives is recognizing the House of Representatives Child Care Center, HRCCC, team with the 2012 Employee Excellence Award, which is sponsored by the Officers and Inspector General of the U.S. House of Representatives. The award recognizes employees from each entity who have provided outstanding performance to their employer and who have demonstrated a superior attitude and demeanor in service to the House over the period of the last year.

The employees of the HRCCC have demonstrated a high level of drive, determination and commitment over the past year. They are dedicated not only to the children, but also to their parents, the CAO and the House community at-large.

While we recognize the HRCCC as a team I would also like to recognize each teacher and staff member individually today.

Ladonya Allen
Monica Barnabae
Paige Beatty
Sherleen Boyde
Erica Doody
Suzette Drexel-Carpenter
Shamorrow Hall
Contrinia Hemphill
Suzanne Hite
Michelle Jones
Nicole Price
Jennifer Sekhar
Sharon Steele
Ann Vogel
Kathleen Williams

Fareen Wu

Congratulations to the House of Representatives Child Care Center team.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 192ND
ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 192nd anniversary of Greek Independence. On this day, we honor the memory and sacrifice of those who fought and died to free their nation from occupation. The revolution brought independence to the Greece and confidence to other oppressed peoples around the world who also yearned for freedom. The message the Greek people sent out to the world in 1821 continues to reverberate today as a beacon of hope to those who seek the right of self-determination. When we recognize Greek Independence Day we reaffirm the ideals and values that inspired Thomas Jefferson to say that Americans owe the ancient Greeks a great debt for showing us the light and helping to lead us out of darkness. Each year that we honor Greek Independence, we acknowledge that debt, and by our example, let oppressed people know that we stand with them in their quest for freedom.

RECOGNIZING MRS. EVELYN L.
PORTEUS ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the birthday of Mrs. Evelyn L. Porteus, who will be turning 100 years old on April 26, 2013.

Evelyn was a resident of Schoharie, NY for 50 years, where she worked one of her favorite jobs as a docent at the Old Stone Fort—originally a church turned into a fort during the American Revolutionary War. Prior to that, Evelyn was a former graduate (class of 1933) of and teacher at Oneonta Normal School in New York.

She lovingly raised a family of four children, and has six grandchildren, including one great-grandchild. She now lives at the Wesley Health Care Center in Saratoga Springs, NY, where she has resided for the past 12 years.

Evelyn has witnessed momentous changes in our nation's history. Her life reflects a contribution to that history. I hope her century of memories brings much pride and joy to herself and family members.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Evelyn on this remarkable milestone. I wish her a special day shared in the company of her family and friends and all the best in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING RUSSELL J.
SALVATORE AS EXECUTIVE OF
THE YEAR

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Russell J. Salvatore as the Buffalo Niagara Sales & Marketing Executives' choice for their 2012 Executive of the Year. Russ is a talented businessman, food service visionary and generous philanthropist, who is truly inspired by his love of the people of Western New York.

From an early age, Russ saw the great potential for service through entrepreneurship through his father, Joseph Salvatore. Joseph owned Salvatore's Restaurant, a family eatery on Buffalo's East Side. Growing up his father's restaurant, Russ developed a passion for service, tireless work ethic, and an appreciation for the value of a warm meal.

Joseph passed the family business down to Russ and his brother in 1967. Shortly after, Russ pursued his own endeavors, purchasing a small hot dog stand on Transit Road and transforming it into Salvatore's Italian Gardens. For nearly forty years, Russ lived and breathed Salvatore's. His tireless work turned Salvatore's Italian Gardens into a renowned restaurant and banquet center, winner of countless awards and national recognition. By 1995, Salvatore's had become a destination in its own right, allowing Russ to open an attached hotel, Salvatore's Garden Palace. Russ truly enjoyed every aspect of his daily work, and although he signed over the business to his son Joseph in 2003, he remained closely involved until 2006, when he chose to retire.

Russ's passion for serving Western New York drew him out of retirement before long. He returned to work at age 75, opening Russell's Steaks, Chops, and More, in November 2008. Russell's quickly became one of our region's most prominent steakhouses. The month after, Russ opened Salvatore's Grand Hotel next to his new restaurant, creating another successful combination of a well-regarded hotel and fine dining establishment.

Russ's philanthropic efforts are as renowned as his business endeavors. He is a public supporter of countless charities, events, scholarships, and causes. To encourage students pursuing careers in food service and hospitality, he formed a partnership with Trocaire College to found the Russell J. Salvatore School of Hospitality and Business. Situated on a satellite campus next to his new steakhouse, students at the school gain concrete experience through internships at Russell's Steaks, Chops and More, and Salvatore's Grand Hotel.

In the wake of one of our region's most tragic days, Russ stepped in to aid heartbroken local families. On February 12, 2009, a passenger plane known as Flight 3407 crashed to the ground in Clarence Center, New York, killing all on board. To honor the fifty victims, Russ helped secure a memorial in Heroes and Patriots Park.

Perhaps one of Russ's most well-known gestures is his purchase of 10,000 Buffalo Bills tickets, which prevented a "black-out" of a home game in December 2012. Russ's investment allowed one of the season's last

games to be broadcast on local television. He donated nearly all 10,000 tickets to local organizations, patrons of his restaurant, and community members, to show his deep gratitude to the people of Western New York.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to recognize Mr. Russell Salvatore's great contributions and admirable generosity. Buffalo is nicknamed the "City of Good Neighbors," and Russ epitomizes this spirit. I congratulate him on the incredible honor of being named Executive of the Year, and I wish him continued fulfillment and the absolute best in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING MAINE MAPLE SUNDAY

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join Maine's maple syrup producers in celebrating Maine Maple Sunday on March 24, 2013.

The history of maple syrup in Maine dates back to before the colonists first landed on our shores. Native American tribes from throughout the Northeast first developed the practice of drawing sugar and syrup from the sap of maple trees. Hundreds of years later, maple syrup remains a staple of Maine's economy and cultural heritage.

Maine Maple Sunday is always held on the fourth Sunday in March. Sugarhouses open their doors on this day to offer free samples and demonstrations to enthusiastic customers from all over the Northeast. Nurtured by Maine's unique soils and climate, the maple syrup on display during Maple Sunday is among the finest in the world.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Arnold and Elaine Luce of Anson, T.A. Greene of Sebago, the family of the late Linwood Foster of Skowhegan, John Hodgkins of Yarmouth, Robert Smith of Skowhegan, the family of the late Chester Basford of Fairfield, John and Eva Steeves of Skowhegan, and Pete Tracy of Farmington for their hard work in making Maine Maple Sunday possible. Their efforts are responsible for the successful continuation of one of Maine's oldest and proudest traditions.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating Maine's maple syrup producers on putting together another Maine Maple Sunday.

HONORING WILLIAM "BILL" BLOIS SEAL

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I have known Judy Seal for many years and have respected, appreciated and admired her leadership on education issues in my district.

It was with great sadness that I learned of the passing of her father William "Bill" Blois Seal—a native Long Beach son who bravely served his country in war and later served his community as an educator for more than four decades.

Bill was born at Seaside Hospital in 1924, attended schools in Long Beach and graduated from Wilson High School.

Enlisting in the Army in 1942, Bill's youthful hobby of pigeon ing led him to service as a Pigeoneer in the U.S. Army. Homing pigeons and their handlers served in all fronts of the war, often times providing communications when other means were not available or too unsecure.

Bill was in the fourth wave to land at Omaha Beach during the Normandy Invasion and wound up spending his 20th birthday just days later in a foxhole on the Allied beachhead. He later served through the push across France and fought in the Battle of the Bulge, the last major German offensive of the war.

Selected for officer training, Bill's tour in Europe was cut short as he was sent back to the States. The war ended before Bill could be redeployed and he returned to Long Beach to continue his interrupted education.

He entered Long Beach City College, and then moved on to the University of Southern California where he earned both undergraduate and Master's degrees in education.

During this time, Bill married his high school sweetheart, Betty. They would remain married until her passing in 2011. They would go on to have three children: son Christopher and daughters Judy and Nancy.

As a young educator, Bill joined the Long Beach Unified School District, becoming part of the original faculty at both Stanford Junior High and Millikan High schools. His career eventually took him to back to Long Beach City College, where he had begun his higher education and where his own father had worked as a Dean.

At the end of his 43-year career in education, Bill had become a beloved figure in Long Beach, both for his educational work and for his work on behalf of Vietnam War veterans and the Cambodian community.

Bill passed away on March 15, 2013 at Long Beach Community Hospital in the arms of his beloved daughter, Judy.

THE KEYS TO LIFE: HONORING AN AMERICAN HERO, CORPORAL ADAM KEYS OF THE 618TH ENGINEER SUPPORT CO., THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Pennsylvania's most heroic sons, Adam Keys of the United States Army, 618th Engineer Combat Team. On July 14, 2010, while on patrol in his vehicle, a thousand pound IED went off, killing four of Adam's Brothers in Arms, including his best friend Jesse Reed. Adam and Jesse were close friends at White High School and joined the Army together. Close to death, miraculously Adam survived to begin his new battle. Adam lost his legs and an arm in this horrific attack. I have spent time with Adam and his mother, Julie Keys, on a number of occasions. Adam's bravery and Mrs. Keys' strength go unmatched. This poem, "The Keys to Life," authored by Mr. Bert Caswell—a tireless and devoted advocate for our wounded warriors—is

in honor of Adam's courageous sacrifice for our nation and the inspiration he offers to his family, friends, and those he meets along his journey today.

THE KEYS TO LIFE

Along the road of life. . .
 There are some Keys to so realize. . .
 That which, we should all so live by!
 Up which rise so very high,
 up above all else which now so lies!
 Where, faith and honor. . .
 but so touch the sky!
 That which so determines,
 who we are as realized!
 When, who so lives and so dies!
 All in these the short moments of our
 lives. . .
 All in that most magnificent code,
 that which we should all so live by. . .
 A code of honor,
 that which so makes even the Angels cry!
 That all in our stead,
 so determines if we have so followed or led!
 And so left behind!
 When, to this world we say goodbye. . .
 For The Greatest Things of All,
 we find in hearts of courage full who come to
 call!
 Who so serve our country armed with words
 like,
 Strength In Honor, Faith and Courage. . .
 who all in the darkest nights will not so be
 discouraged. . .
 With words like Duty, Country, and God,
 which so ranks the highest of them all. . .
 As The Key To Life is so found,
 all in a heart of faith which now so astound!
 So very deep down,
 inside of one's soul that which comes to
 call. . .
 All in your most splendid life,
 as Adam we have so saw. . .
 Which brings such tears,
 to even the Angel's eyes which now fall. . .
 That gives one the strength to so coura-
 geously stand tall!
 While, all those darkest of all nights of all!
 As we so see Adam's fine heart so come to
 call!
 But, to wear that uniform. . .
 of The United States Army,
 and march off to war with hearts of courage
 warm. . .
 To so face of death,
 but For The Greater Good all in a Heroes
 quest!
 All in your most heroic sheen,
 To But Be The Best!
 And Adam,
 when in that moment of truth,
 as there you were so close to death!
 As your fine life hung by just a thread. . .
 As four of your Brothers In Arms,
 now beside you so heroically lie dead!
 And you so saw,
 what this war had done. . .
 and you so began to cry for your lost loved
 ones. . .
 As it was all in that moment of truth,
 as when you so gallantly denied death!
 As your fine heart so chose to fight,
 to rise up with not much left!
 As you so dug deep down inside,
 and so reached for the skies!
 But, to Live or Die?
 As somehow,
 you so found that faith and courage to so
 survive!
 As Pennsylvania's Pride,
 as you so wiped away all of those tears from
 your eyes!
 And you so began your new battle cry!
 As all out on your road to recovery,
 as you so passed them all so by!
 As somehow we must catch up to you,
 so try!
 For it's all within your great heart of faith,

that you found the way. . .
 But where The Key's To Life So Lie!
 As you so unlocked all of that heartache and
 pain,
 and would not compromise!
 As your fine heart got up,
 and so began to rise!
 And for all of your fallen Brothers In Arms,
 you so carry with you now inside!
 As you so honor them all in this way,
 all in what your most courageous life now
 portrays!
 As you are Army Strong in every way!
 Hoo. . . ah. . . as you so rebuild your life day
 after day!
 For a heart can take us to places,
 to where dreams are so made this!
 Can so help us to win wars,
 and bring us back from the dead as the world
 we so amaze!
 Even without legs, and arms. . .
 can help us walk again and hold the world in
 our arms this day!
 For Adam they may take your strong arm
 and legs!
 But, they can not so touch Adam,
 what's within your fine heart of faith so
 armed!
 Because, Adam you are Army Strong!
 And your fine life is but a song,
 a song of character and faith to us which
 now belongs. . .
 With The Keys To Life to keep us strong!
 So we better start running,
 if we want to catch up to you!
 Because, some people are put upon this
 earth. . .
 To So Teach and So Beseech Us All In Their
 Great Worth!
 So surely Adam,
 as you have so shown us all what so truly
 comes first!
 And your fine Mother,
 who through thick and thin stood. . .
 Has so stood by you in the very worst!
 And helped you with your rebirth!
 For these are The Keys To Life,
 chapter and verse!
 And if ever I have a son,
 I wish he could be as courageous as this one!
 Who with his fine heart of gold,
 so shines like the morning sun,
 for all of us to so behold!
 Because Adam,
 all in what your fine life is about. . .
 Are also found the keys to Heaven no doubt!
 As you have so bravely shown us all,
 how to so live with and without!
 But, up in Heaven. . .
 you need not arms nor legs. . .
 And Adam my son,
 that's where you're going one fine day. . .
 Up with our Lord where you will run. . .
 For you have so shone us all,
 The Keys to Life,
 my son!

RECOGNIZING DR. WILLIAM J. MCKINNEY

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. William McKinney, a nationally recognized teacher, scholar, and academic leader, on his appointment as the 9th President of Valdosta State University and to wish him luck during his inaugural week.

Dr. McKinney earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering and a Bachelor of Arts in History from Bucknell University and

both a Master of Arts in History and Philosophy and a Ph.D. at Indiana University-Bloomington. Prior to his appointment as Valdosta State University President, Dr. McKinney served as the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, as the Chairperson of Philosophy and Religion at Southeast Missouri State, and as Dean of the College of Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts at Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania.

As a lifelong supporter of a liberal arts education, Dr. McKinney has published well over 100 papers, book chapters, and reviews on everything from environmental ethics to civic engagement. I know he will be an asset to the Valdosta State University Campus. I am proud to have him representing Valdosta State University and my home state. Congratulations, again, to Dr. McKinney. I look forward to working with him in the years to come.

HONORING THE CAREER OF CAPTAIN JOHN DEMARCO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the extraordinary career of Captain John DeMarco, upon the occasion of his retirement from the Niagara Falls Police Department.

A third-generation police officer, Captain DeMarco has a proud family legacy of public service. His grandfather was well-known as a Niagara Falls motorcycle cop. His father was a chief in the New York State Park Police, serving for forty years. His brother, Bob, will remain active in the Niagara Falls Police force as a Juvenile Detective.

Prior to his career in the Niagara Falls Police Department, Captain DeMarco pursued higher education, earning a degree from Niagara University in 1972. After graduation, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, honorably serving our nation for twelve years.

Upon returning home to Niagara Falls, Captain DeMarco earned a place in the police department's patrol unit. He rose through the ranks, becoming a patrol lieutenant, then a deputy to Superintendent Christopher Carlin in 2000. When Superintendent Carlin left for active military duty from November 2001 to October 2002, he entrusted Captain DeMarco to serve as acting police superintendent, a role he continued to serve under Carlin's successor, John Chella.

As an officer, Captain DeMarco understood and revered the police department's immense responsibility to protect their neighbors. He sought to build trusting relationships with community members, working in conjunction to create a safer Niagara Falls. Active within the community himself, he is a founding member of the Niagara Falls Law Enforcement Foundation and continues to serve on the Niagara Police Athletic League.

Captain DeMarco served Niagara Falls with great pride and bravery. On February 7, 2009, two fellow officers, Walter Nichols Jr. and Michael D. Bird, were shot on South Avenue. The police force united, performing at their

best to protect citizens and colleagues. Captain DeMarco valued the special bond between officers, and the great responsibility entrusted to the police force as the first to respond during crises.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing me a few moments to acknowledge the career of Captain John DeMarco. I am grateful for his twenty-six years of service to Niagara Falls, and I wish him the best of luck as he brings his expertise in law enforcement to his new role as a faculty member in the Niagara University Criminal Justice Department.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIREMAN'S FUND INSURANCE COMPANY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the 150th anniversary of Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, which was established in the city of San Francisco in 1863, and which is now headquartered in my Congressional District in Novato, California. A celebration of this important milestone will be taking place on April 4th at the Old San Francisco Mint.

Fireman's Fund has been one of the nation's premier insurance companies, protecting the future for individuals, families, and businesses. Its own history parallels that of both this state and country. Fireman's Fund has insured the construction of national landmarks including the Hoover Dam, the Golden Gate Bridge, and Charles Lindbergh's Spirit of St. Louis.

It survived the Chicago Fire of 1871 and the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906, playing a critical role in rebuilding after the devastation. The company was also there when it mattered for many displaced people after the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989.

This company is a true innovator—the first insurance provider to write a standing grain policy in the U.S., the first carrier to offer nationwide automobile insurance and standardized homeowners insurance, and the first company to add “green” insurance to their offerings for homes and businesses.

The Fireman's Fund name, which is heralded in California, emanates from the founder's arrangement to pay 10 percent of the company's profits to support the widows and orphans of firefighters who died in the line of duty. That tradition continues today through the company's Heritage Program®, providing fire departments throughout the nation with life-saving equipment and training. Working in combination with its employees, agents and brokers, the company has distributed more than \$30 million to support firefighters for safer communities since 2004. The company has also been a benefactor of numerous charities in the San Francisco Bay Area and its generosity has added tremendously to the vitality of our communities.

More than 1,200 Californians work for Fireman's Fund, with the majority of them residing in my own Congressional District. They are not only dedicated professionals who partner with agents and brokers to provide high quality insurance services, but many spend countless

hours engaged in volunteer work for a variety of causes.

I look forward to being at the 150th Anniversary Celebration of Fireman's Fund on April 4th. It is a great company with outstanding people and it remains one of California's most enduring financial institutions. Given the time of rapid change in which we live, it is comforting to know that companies like Fireman's Fund still endure, and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them well with the hope that they will still be with us for another 150 years.

HUNGARY TODAY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, less than a month ago I chaired a hearing on “Anti-Semitism: A Growing Threat to All Faiths.” One of the witnesses was Tamás Fellegi, a former minister in the Orbán government, who is himself Jewish. His testimony was impressive, as was the long list of significant actions the Orbán government has taken to combat anti-Semitism in Hungarian society.

Mr. Fellegi admitted frankly that anti-Semitism is a serious social problem in Hungary. Fortunately, the Orbán government is on a clear upward trajectory here, and gives every sign that it will continue to be part of the solution rather than the problem. I'm confident it will particularly take on the persistent attempts to rehabilitate Holocaust perpetrators and vicious anti-Semites, both from the 1930s and 1940s and today. I will certainly continue to urge it to do so.

We all know that many NGOs and a few governments, including our own, have been vocal in criticizing the Hungarian government on various grounds touching on democracy and human rights—and that the Hungarian government and its supporters have rejected these criticisms vigorously.

Having reviewed material on both sides, I must say that I believe the Orbán government is right when it says that many of the criticisms are unfair, involving double standards, misrepresentations, and inaccurate information. The Hungarian government has carefully documented this, for example in its “Open Letter to Freedom House.”

For another example, the administration, in criticizing the Orbán government's adoption of a new constitution, claimed in its written testimony to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe this week that in “fundamental” matters, “the process must lead to a consensus built from a cross-section of society, rather than reflect only the opinions of the ruling coalition . . . the lack of serious consultation with different sectors of society, did not honor the democratic spirit . . .” Anyone familiar with the passage of the Obamacare legislation might well question whether this is a message our government is ideally situated to deliver. Certainly it should have avoided the rude insinuation about democracy.

Yet we need to continue delivering these and similar messages to a number of foreign governments—we must not give in to the cynicism induced by our own or any other government's failings.

But we should be a lot more humble—especially when we are dealing with a country like Hungary, where the system of constitutional checks and balances is alive and well, where a democratic party with an unprecedented supermajority and a mandate for dramatic change, gained in a free and fair election, passed a democratic constitution and shows itself open to working with others to amend and improve the flaws in its new laws. This is a conversation between equals, and there is a lot we can learn from Hungary. I'm thinking particularly here of the constitutional cap on public debt and the statement that life will be protected in the womb.

I'd like to congratulate the Hungarian government for the many laudable things in the new constitution—many things that advance human rights, including the prohibition of human trafficking, reproductive cloning, and its promotion of the culture of life. And for the rest, I look forward to a continuing conversation with the Hungarian government about their and our constitutional traditions and how they can both be improved.

RECOGNIZING STEPHEN WEIR

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY and Congressman ERIC SWALWELL to recognize the unparalleled career of Mr. Stephen Weir and congratulate him as he retires after forty years of public service on behalf of the people of Contra Costa County. Steve Weir has been known throughout our community as a man of uncommon commitment and unwavering integrity.

Born in Richmond, California and raised in Pleasant Hill, Steve has been a life-long resident of Contra Costa County. Following his graduation with Honors from the University of California at Berkeley, Steve moved back to Central County to begin his career as a public servant. He won his first elected position in 1973 as the Contra Costa Water District Director. After serving seven years in that capacity, Steve was elected to the Concord City Council in 1980, and in 1984 he was selected by his colleagues to serve a two-year term as Concord's Mayor. During this time, Steve also took on the responsibilities of regional Commissioner for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and became Chairman in 1991.

It was in 1989, following the death of County Recorder Jim Olson, that Steve was appointed to fill the vacant seat for County Recorder. Steve was subsequently elected to the office in 1990 and has been returned to the position by voters every four years since.

As County Clerk-Recorder, Steve immediately went to work streamlining the Clerk office system from five offices spread throughout Martinez, to one consolidated, state-of-the-art facility. Leveraging nearly \$13 million in federal and state grant funding, he developed and purchased a vote tabulation system and introduced electronic recording to our county. Steve's efficiency continued to garner favorable results as his implementation of a department-wide Performance Management Program

brought high praise from the Contra Costa County Grand Jury. He also established a Real Estate Fraud Notification System which has protected the County's property owners.

Steve has earned many awards and distinctions throughout his career, including the 1993 Citizen of the Year Award from the California Transportation Foundation in recognition of his skill in bringing improvements to the Contra Costa and Bay Area's transportation systems and under his watch, the Contra Costa County Clerk's Office was awarded the County Department of the Year Award in 1994. However, we are certain that the distinction Steve and his long-time partner, John Hemm, take most pride in is the fact that their marriage in June of 2008 was the very first same-gender union ever conducted in Contra Costa County.

As Steve trades his desk chair in Martinez for his bicycle seat, we expect to see him quickly surpass the record 5600 miles of roads and trails he logged last year and to easily hit his personal goal of 75 round trip rides to the 3,864 foot summit of Mt. Diablo this coming year.

Mr. Speaker, we invite our colleagues to join us in commending City Clerk-Recorder Steve Weir for his years of outstanding service to the citizens of Contra Costa County. We are pleased to join his husband, John, his family, friends and colleagues, in congratulating Steve on an outstanding career and wishing him the very best as he begins a well-deserved and we imagine, a very active retirement.

HONORING 125 YEARS OF THE EASTMAN MACHINE COMPANY AND THE STEVENSON FAMILY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend and honor the Eastman Machine Company for its 125 years of business. Owned by the Stevenson family for the past five generations, Eastman revolutionized the apparel industry. Today, Eastman is undoubtedly the global standard for material handling, spreading, and cutting equipment.

The Eastman Machine Company began in 1888, when Canadian inventor George Eastman developed the first fractional electric motor that could be mounted onto a cutting base. By attaching the motor to a reciprocating knife, he created the Eastman, the first electric fabric-cutting machine.

The Eastman rendered manual cutting obsolete, transforming the apparel industry. Rather than painstakingly cutting materials by hand, the Eastman allowed companies to cut fabric mechanically, which exponentially increased production speeds while drastically lowering production costs.

Ten years later, one of Eastman's first investors, Charles P. Stevenson, took over full ownership of the company. The Stevenson family holds the company to this day and remains intimately involved in all aspects of the business.

C.P. Stevenson's son, Wade, assumed leadership in 1908, when he was just twenty-two years old. A shrewd businessman, Wade greatly expanded Eastman's markets. Initially, he propelled sales to reach across the coun-

try. By 1921, he was selling Eastman products in Europe, South America, and South Africa. To further increase sales, Wade developed numerous patents, each stemming from the original Eastman fabric cutter.

Wade controlled Eastman Machine Company for sixty years, passing the company to his son C.P. "Chuck" Stevenson in 1968. Due to his leadership, Eastman acquired the world's leading producer of cloth spreading machines in 1974, Cutting Room Appliance Corporation. With this purchase Eastman became the unequivocal source for all types of apparel manufacturing and fabric cutting machines.

In 1988, Robert L. Stevenson and Wade Stevenson bought the rapidly growing company from their father. Robert became President, and Wade remained in charge of international operations as Export President. Under their innovative leadership, they sought to make Eastman able to produce the complete set of material cutting and handling equipment. They understood that by controlling each piece of machinery, their customers would have the most efficient, economical solution, a truly revolutionary idea.

To accommodate rapidly expanding and widely variable global markets, Eastman purchased North Technology Systems in 1995. North Technology Systems developed groundbreaking software used in computers that controlled cutting machines, and pioneered the use of materials Kevlar and Mylar, which allowed Eastman to expand into new industries that used composite and industrial fabrics.

The Stevenson brothers continue to be passionate about their company's potential and visionary in their pursuit of it. Abroad, Eastman opened a factory in Ningbo, China, in 2004. In 2008, the company acquired Saber Industries of Nashville, Tennessee, improving spreading capacity.

Today, the Eastman Machine Company has produced over one thousand automated systems located in over twenty countries. Since its humble beginnings in Buffalo, New York, it has become the world's foremost producer of material handling, spreading, and cutting equipment, with innumerable patents, and hundreds of machines, and facilities on five continents.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely thank you for allowing me to acknowledge the incredible legacy of the Eastman Machine Company and the ingenuity, dedication, and vision of the Stevenson family. I wish all those involved with this institution the best of luck in all future endeavors.

HONORING AUSTIN LEE CABLE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Austin Lee Cable. Austin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Austin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Austin has been involved with

scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Austin led his troop as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, became an Ordeal Member of the Order of the Arrow and earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Austin has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Austin designed and supervised the construction of an outdoor seating area at Harmony Vineyard Church in Kansas City, Missouri, complete with a cedar pergola, two cedar benches and finished with Missouri River Rock landscaping.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Austin Lee Cable for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES ALAN JOHNSON

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, my college debate coach, and my mentor, James Alan Johnson—known to everyone as "Al"—who passed away in late December of last year. Al Johnson's life began in the little farming town of Swink, Colorado, on July 6, 1930. He attended school in nearby La Junta, and when he was old enough he joined the United States Navy and fought in the Korean War. After the war, he earned his bachelor's degree from Colorado College (CC), and went on to receive a Masters in economics from Stanford University.

He returned to his undergraduate alma mater to spend his career, and became a beloved figure on CC's campus. Respected by his colleagues and admired by his students, Al's career spanned many decades, where he was a professor of economics, the college's debate coach, and the college Registrar. As Registrar, he guided the college towards excellence. It was under his leadership that CC's unique approach towards higher education—the Block Plan—became a reality. Because of this visionary plan of study, Colorado College students have the opportunity to focus on one class at a time. Al's steady hand as Registrar made the vision of the Block Plan a reality; one that continues to challenge students today.

As CC's debate coach, Al inspired generations of debaters. He expected nothing less than our best at all times. He urged us to be scholar-debaters, not just debaters; driving us to research a topic thoroughly, yet honestly, looking at the matter from all sides. All these years later, I remember how Al would repeat anything that was particularly important three times. As I now spend my days giving speeches designed to influence and inform, that guidance continues to resonate with me—to repeat that which is important as you make your argument.

Al's commitment to debate ran beyond just our classroom. He held the positions of president and treasurer of the National Collegiate Debate Association, and organized the National Parliamentary Debate Association and various international tournaments. Even in his

retirement, Al continued his active involvement with the debate community, urging the national associations to keep the activity relevant to the training of future generations of leaders.

Throughout his life, Al loved to travel, and in fact, he and his brother Bill visited all 50 states, six continents and 50 different countries. In recent years, Al and Bill made regular trips to Washington, DC to visit their late sister, Shirley, and he always called me when he was in town. A lifelong Coloradan, Al was a scholar of Colorado state history, as well as American and world history, and frequently gave speeches on history in El Paso County and in Denver.

Al was beloved by his many former students and colleagues. During his final illness, the outpouring of love and support from his friends helped ease his days. Al received visits, phone calls, cards, and emails from around the world. A true mark of his influence was how the community rallied around him. I had the honor of seeing Al just a few weeks before his death, and will forever be glad that I had one more opportunity to hear his wisdom.

Al Johnson was a scholar, a teacher, a mentor and a friend to countless students and colleagues throughout his life. His passing is a great loss for Colorado College, for the state of Colorado, and a personal loss for me and all who loved him. He will be sorely missed, but I know his legacy of excellence will endure.

**SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL COUGARS BOYS
BASKETBALL TEAM WINS THE
LOUISIANA CLASS 4A STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP**

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Saint Thomas More Catholic High School Boys basketball team for their recent achievement of winning Louisiana's Class 4A State Championship. This team had a tough season, but it finished strong in the end. This game accounted for the Cougars' third triumph against the Northside High School Vikings this year. The Cougars are proud to claim the state title and bring it home to Lafayette.

With five seniors on the team providing steady leadership, Coach Danny Broussard knew the Vikings would shine during the state playoffs. In a season full of commitment and many practices, the Cougars' efforts proved worthwhile and successful. Because of the team's hard work, the community was blessed to witness those five seniors finish their final game with the reward of a state championship.

Also, I want to commend the team's entire coaching staff on their hard work and dedication. Coach Danny Broussard has led the team for many years with a bench full of capable assistant coaches that are vital to the team. Wesley Cortese and Brad Geoffroy allocate a tremendous amount of time to this team, and that sacrifice does not go unrecognized. I am excited to see the team defend its title next year in its quest for a repeat performance, and I wish the Cougars basketball team much luck and success in the future.

**OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT**

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,739,939,855,865.39. We've added \$6,113,062,806,952.31 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO SALLY JOHNSTON

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents, Mrs. Sally Johnston. Sally is currently the New York Department President of the American Legion Auxiliary and will be finishing her one-year term this upcoming July.

Sally has been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary for over 25 years. During this period she has worked tirelessly on behalf of veterans and their families throughout New York State, serving as President of the Third District (2000–01) and Fourth District (2006–07), as well as Department Second and Third Vice President (2009–11) before becoming Department President. Sally has received numerous awards including national recognition when she was awarded the Department National Historian award for the best overall entry in the Eastern Division.

Recently, Sally has focused her energy on the Warriors Assistance Program. Under her guidance, the Warriors Assistance Program has steadily grown, raising \$39,000 so far, an amount that is expected to increase overtime.

Sally truly exemplifies the American Legion Auxiliary's motto of "service not self." In addition to her work with the American Legion Auxiliary, Sally is an active member in her community, serving on various educational, church and cultural boards. Her lifelong commitment to improve and support the lives of others, particularly those who have served our great country, reflects the best in our citizenry.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Sally Johnston for her many years of service to the veterans and their families of New York State. I wish Sally all the best in the many years ahead.

**RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEE OF
THE OFFICERS AND THE INSPECTOR
GENERAL OF THE U.S.
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITH 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
THE HOUSE**

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mrs. Miller of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Margaret

Mitchell of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer who has reached the milestone of 25 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives. Margaret began her career in 1987 as a receptionist in the computer center, and she has continued to be an exemplary employee as she has gone on to assume many roles within HIR.

Ms. Mitchell is acknowledged and commended for her hard work, dedication, professionalism, support of House Members, their staffs and constituents, and for her contributions, day-in and day-out, to the overall operations of the House. I am proud to stand before you and the Nation on Ms. Mitchell's behalf to recognize the importance of her public service.

**HONORING HUNTER SAMUEL
BENTCH**

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Hunter Samuel Bentch. Hunter is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Hunter has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Hunter has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Hunter led his troop as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and attended the Colorado and Philmont High Adventure Camps. Hunter has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Hunter designed and constructed a five-foot high, 46-foot long, fence along a section of the Trail of Heroes at the Kansas City Missouri Police Academy where the trail had a sharp drop-off.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Hunter Samuel Bentch for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 83 regarding the "Mulvaney of South Carolina Substitute Amendment No. 1" (H. Con. Res. 25). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

I missed rollcall vote No. 84 regarding the "Scott of Virginia Substitute Amendment No. 2" (H. Con. Res. 25). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

I missed rollcall vote No. 85 regarding the "Grijalva of Arizona Substitute Amendment No. 3" (H. Con. Res. 25). Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

I missed rollcall vote No. 86 regarding the "Woodall of Georgia Substitute Amendment No. 4" (H. Con. Res. 25). Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

FIREARMS RISK PROTECTION ACT OF 2013

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to introduce an important piece of legislation: the Firearms Risk Protection Act (FRPA). This bill will require gun owners to purchase liability coverage and to show proof of that coverage when they purchase a firearm. This is an idea whose time has come. In fact, lawmakers in several states including Massachusetts and Illinois have introduced similar legislative proposals.

In the wake of horrific tragedies like those at Newtown, Aurora, and Tucson, we as a society and we as lawmakers must provide answers. We must respect Americans' rights to own guns but limit gun violence and gun death. We must continue to enable guns to be used in a lawful and safe manner by responsible citizens and we must keep guns out of the hands of others. We must make sure the atrocities we have witnessed never happen again.

This federal requirement would serve as a market-based solution to holding gun owners liable for the weapons they own. As with car insurance premiums, higher risk gun owners will face higher premiums. Actuarial determinations will be made by insurance companies, as those experts are in the best position to make those determinations based on sound data analysis.

Under the Firearms Risk Protection Act (FRPA), state regulated insurance companies would be able to extend coverage to their customers—this is not a federal insurance program. Additionally, this bill poses no specific requirements on insurance companies themselves, but instead, imposes a fine of \$10,000 if during the sale of a weapon the seller does not confirm coverage or the buyer has not purchased it.

As lawmakers, we must stand ready to work on solutions to curtail our nation's gun violence and requiring liability coverage for gun owners should be part of the solution. I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this important piece of legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, April 10 marks a significant date for the relationship between the United States and the Republic of China, our dear friends in Southeast Asia. This is the 34th anniversary of the passage of the Taiwan Relations Act that codified the bond that we share with Taiwan.

Even though we have been friends and allies for much longer, it was the Taiwan Relations Act that officially outlined the importance that both nations place in each other. We are strong partners in trade, peace and democracy.

When it comes to trade, Taiwan imported \$25.9 billion from the United States in 2011. This is an incredible 40% increase over 2009. It shows the focus Taiwan is placing on buying American goods which translates to jobs here in the United States.

In New York alone, exports to Taiwan were over \$1 billion. We also appreciate the many Taiwanese companies, such as Young Stuff Apparel Group and China Airlines that have invested in New York.

We look forward to our continued friendship and partnership with Taiwan for many years to come.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 25) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2014 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2023:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, as a proud member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, CPC, I rise in strong support of the CPC's alternative to H. Con. Res. 25. This alternative budget, more appropriately known as the "Budget for All" Substitute invests in America, reforms corporate and individual taxes in a balanced manner, and adopts sensible, modern defense spending. Simply put: the CPC is an egalitarian and effective budget for all of America.

The CPC's "Budget for All" wisely invests the hard earned peace dividend resulting from the successful end to the war in Iraq and the winding down of the war in Afghanistan to promote economic growth and a healthier and cleaner environment.

In addition, this budget puts Americans back to work, charts a path to responsible deficit reduction, enhances our economic competitiveness, rebuilds the middle class and invests in our future. The CPC budget makes no cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, or Social Security benefits, and asks those who have benefited most from our economy to pay a sensible share. It is only fair.

The CPC budget addresses America's persistently high unemployment levels with more than \$2.9 trillion in additional job-creating investments, which frankly will help depressed economies in inner-city communities across America, including those in my hometown of Houston, Texas. This plan utilizes every tool at the government's disposal to get our economy moving again, including:

Direct hire programs that create a School Improvement Corps, a Park Improvement Corps, and a Student Jobs Corps, among others.

Targeted tax incentives that spur clean energy, manufacturing, and cutting-edge technological investments in the private sector.

Widespread domestic investments including an infrastructure bank, a \$556 billion surface transportation bill, and approximately \$2.1 trillion in widespread domestic investment.

The Budget for All achieves \$6.8 trillion in deficit reduction, hits the same debt to GDP ratio as the Republican budget with lower deficits in the last five years; and does so in a responsible way that does not eviscerate vital services Americans want preserved.

These benchmarks are achieved by focusing on the true drivers of our deficit: unsustainable tax policies, the wars overseas, and policies that helped cause the recent recession—rather than irresponsibly putting the middle class's social safety net on the chopping block.

The budget also taxes fairly, because it:

Ends tax cuts for the top 2% of Americans on schedule at year's end.

Extends tax relief for middle class households and the vast majority of Americans.

Creates new tax brackets for millionaires and billionaires.

Eliminates the tax code's preferential treatment of capital gains and dividends.

Abolishes corporate welfare for oil, gas, and coal companies.

Eliminates loopholes that allow businesses to dodge their true tax liability.

Calls for the adoption of the "Buffett Rule".

Creates a publicly funded federal election system that gets corporate money out of politics for good.

The CPC budget demonstrates that we have been listening to the American people because we responsibly and sensibly end our military presence in Iraq and Afghanistan, leaving America more secure at home and abroad; and modernizes our military to address 21st century threats and stop contributing to our deficit problems. This is the peace dividend. With this dividend, the CPC budget:

Provides a Making Work Pay tax credit for families struggling with high gas and food cost's 2013–2015.

Extends Earned Income Tax Credit, and the Child and Dependent Care Credit.

Invests in programs to stave off further foreclosures to keep families in their homes.

Invests in our children's education by increasing Education, Training, and Social Services.

Mr. Chair, the federal budget is a moral document, with meaning, fiber, and a unique texture. Sometimes we lose sight of this fact given the preoccupation by many with, I could wax on and on today on the Floor about the "baselines," "benchmarks," and "extrapolations and projections of future budget conditions," based on the assumptions that may or may not turn out to be accurate.

But real people living, struggling with real problems in the real world are not interested in such esoteric discussion. They want us to focus on their lives and their problems. They want to know that we understand the necessity of making taxes fairer, simpler, and economically reasonable.

Most economists agree, Mr. Speaker, that entitlement policy must be evaluated and progressively modified to achieve sustainability. Unlike discretionary spending, mandatory spending grew rapidly from 5% of GDP in 1962 to a range of 9% to 10.5% of GDP from

1975 to 2007, peaking in recession years because of automatic stabilizers.

Let me be clear: I am unalterably opposed to any entitlement reform that deprives seniors, like the ones that reside in the 18th Congressional District of Texas, of benefits they have labored long and hard to earn. To do otherwise would break a promise to prior generations who faithfully paid into the current system. These are not entitlements; they are earned benefits. And they must not be taken away.

And speaking of Texas; recently my hometown of Houston was forced to lay off nearly one thousand municipal employees. When these employees are put on the unemployment line, libraries close, schools cut back on essential after-school programs, community centers lose personnel, police hours are trimmed, and the truly destitute become an afterthought.

Those tough budget decisions had a human cost and I hear from my constituents every day about them. Frankly, I do not want tax cuts for the wealthy at the expense of jobs for working and middle class families in Texas.

The CPC fiscal year 2014 budget alternative stands in clear contrast to the budget that our Republican colleagues have put forward. This budget will reduce the deficit in a balanced and credible way, making difficult choices while providing investments that help create jobs now and build an even stronger economy for the future.

But unlike the Republican budget—which ends the Medicare guarantee while providing enormous tax breaks to millionaires—we ask the very wealthy and special interests to share responsibility for reducing the deficit. We must embark on a truly shared sacrifice.

I ask my colleagues to support the CPC Budget for All Substitute.

HONORING TROY ISKE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Troy Iske. Troy is

a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 138, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Troy has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Troy has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Troy has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Troy led a team in refurbishing and painting benches and cleaning the shooting ranges at the Pigeon Hill Conservation Area in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Troy Iske for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.